

Property of  
Bruce Keep

## WEST TISBURY COMMUNITY PROFILE

### EVOLUTION

On a Friday evening and all day Saturday in mid-March, 252 West Tisbury residents and property owners gathered in the school gym to chart the town's well-being and make plans for its future.

In the invitation that was sent to West Tisbury residents and property owners, the Steering Committee wrote, "The town and island are in a period of rapid growth and change. This can worry people and make us feel powerless about our ability to shape the town's future. We tend to feel that the qualities of our town and island are changing and there is little we can do about it... This process (of Community Profiles) has helped guide the growth of communities in ways that feel positive and effective."

Community Profiles and similar "visioning" projects are gaining in popularity, especially in small towns, all across the country. The movement not only creates new measures of progress, but helps a community to find common ground, according to Alan AtKisson, founder of a Seattle organization that helps communities to develop such programs.

"I don't know what happened in the 20th century that made the U.S. stop thinking about the future," AtKisson says. "We have to overcome this legacy that is summed up on the bumper sticker on large RVs - 'I'm spending my children's inheritance,' - as if that were something to be proud of." He adds, "The point here is to make sure the world we hand on is at least as good as the world we came into."

Another proponent of such processes, Lewis Feldstein president of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, commented that "a healthy community is one that on a dozen different dimensions, important dimensions, functions well... and the magic is that these all are things you can do something about. They are not built into the soil. You can change them."

Delia Clark, the facilitator for the West Tisbury weekend, and who conducts similar projects throughout New England, talks about the decline of civic involvement, the heart and vitality of community. "The solution to the current lack of civic involvement lies in the simple act of engaging in our communities and in building a foundation of engagement in our children. Community Profiles work at the local level to identify town goals, rediscover the benefits of cooperative problem solving and reaffirm a sense of community."

The Community Profile was sponsored by the West Tisbury Planning Board, and funded by a Municipal Incentive Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development.

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Co-Chairs: Kate Warner and Toni Cohen  
Treasurer and Loose Ends: Eileen Maley  
Invitations and Programs: Allen Whiting and Bob Day  
Food: Virginia Jones and Susan Silva  
Site Logistics: Andrew Woodruff and Prudy Burt  
Publicity and Promotion: Mary Lu Keep  
Registration and Transportation: Sally Hamilton  
Local Facilitators: Shirley Mayhew and Richard Cohen  
Child Care: Lisa Rogers  
Statistics: Susan Wasserman  
Getting Out the Crowd: William Stewart, Tad Crawford,  
Peter Fyler, Jim Sepanara, and  
all of the above

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

West Tisbury Elementary School, especially Manny Estrella and  
Bob Tankard

Tisbury Printer and Chris Decker

Tisbury Inn, Sherm and Susie Goldstein, for housing seasonal  
residents

Susan Wasserman, Andrea Hartman and Martha Mezger  
for opening their homes to seasonal residents

Wee Friends, Elise and Tommy Thomas, for providing child care

Chefworks, Jim and Kim O'Connor for coffee

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, photographs and maps

Martha's Vineyard Commission, for the great big map

Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard Times, Channel 8, WMVY

West Tisbury PTO for coffee, snacks, home-baked goodies

Vineyard Gourmet, Diana & Helen DeBlase, for Saturday lunches

Ernie Thomas, for the seamless sound system

★ ★ ★

Report written by Eileen Maley; statistical section by Susan  
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#### WEST TISBURY COMMUNITY PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE

Distributed to participants of the Community Profile weekend

Those who participated in the Community Profile were given  
questionnaires to complete over the course of the weekend.  
The questionnaires were intended to add depth and perspective to  
the Community Profile, and offered both space and opportunity  
for participants to respond freely. About half the participants  
- i.e. 127 people - returned their responses.

#### DEMOGRAPHICS

How long have you lived in West Tisbury?

Live elsewhere.....	6
Less than 1 yr.....	4
1-2 yr.....	7
2-5 yr.....	25
5-10 yr.....	15
10-15 yr.....	17
15-25 yr.....	23
25-40 yr.....	15
40 plus yr.....	15

Do you own a house in West Tisbury?

Yes.....	108
No.....	19

Do you own vacant land in West Tisbury?

Yes.....	25
No.....	97

Do you own property elsewhere?

Yes.....	48
No.....	21

Where?

Chilmark.....	15
Boston area.....	10
Vineyard Haven.....	4
Edgartown.....	3
Maine.....	3
New York state.....	3
Oak Bluffs.....	2
Other.....	8

If you own vacant land, do you plan to build? When?

Some day.....	5
This year.....	2
1-2 yr.....	4
3-5 yr.....	2
When kids grow up.....	2
Other, nonspecific .....	10

Participants' questionnaire results ..... 2

Do you expect to spend the rest of your life in West Tisbury?

Yes.....	93
No.....	3
Don't know.....	23
If can afford to.....	4

Why did you choose to buy land/build in/live in West Tisbury?

Rural, convenient, quiet.....	70
Good price at the time.....	14
Born/raised here.....	13
Good schools/good for kids.....	9
Friends here already.....	4
Married West Tisburyite .....	4
Family connection/ inherited.....	2
"Not thinking clearly".....	1

What other town(s) would you like/prefer to live in?

Chilmark.....	46
None.....	39
Vineyard Haven.....	4
Gay Head.....	3
Oak Bluffs.....	2
Edgartown.....	1
Others, misc.....	7

Your approximate age?

20s.....	7
30-40.....	19
40-50.....	38
50-60.....	40
60-70.....	11
70-80.....	10
80 plus.....	2

Participants' questionnaire results ..... 2

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Chilmark..... 46  
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Edgartown..... 1  
Others, misc..... 7

Your approximate age?

20s..... 7  
30-40..... 19  
40-50..... 38  
50-60..... 40  
60-70..... 11  
70-80..... 10  
80 plus..... 2

Participants' questionnaire results ..... 3

GENERAL:

Do you subscribe to and read an island newspaper/magazine?

Vineyard Gazette..... 98  
Martha's Vineyard Time..... 108  
Martha's Vineyard Magazine..... 7

Do you feel well informed about West Tisbury issues?

Yes..... 64  
Somewhat..... 24  
No..... 31

Do you feel well informed about island issues?

Yes..... 64  
Somewhat..... 30  
No..... 23

List issues you consider most important.

Growth/development.....92  
Tax rate.....17  
Traffic/public transportation.....14  
Education/children's issues.....11  
Health care/hospital..... 8  
Commercial development..... 7  
Affordable housing..... 6

...issues you consider least important

Tourism ..... 3  
Beach access..... 3  
Ferry design..... 3  
Number of businesses..... 2  
Piping plovers..... 2  
Building/ paving roads..... 2  
School issues..... 2  
Development ..... 2  
High taxes..... 2  
and a great many individual ideas.

Do you participate in Island or West Tisbury civic, cultural or environmental activities.

25 said no or seldom; the rest list a broad variety of activities.

What do you like best about West Tisbury?

Rural, open space, peace & quiet.... 65  
Sense of community/ friendly people..44  
Village ..... 15  
Farming/agricultural..... 8  
School, good for kids..... 5  
2 each for Agricultural Hall, library, Great Pond, trees

Participants' questionnaire results

..... 4

What would you preserve?

Rural character/open space.....	88
Village/ Historic District.....	21
Beaches, ponds.....	6
Bike paths/ ancient ways.....	2

What do you like least about WT?

Growth/development .....	35
North Tisbury business district.....	22
Suburbanization/ yuppie values.....	11
Soaring tax rate.....	10
Entrenched town leadership/town govt.	10
Traffic .....	8
School expansion/policies.....	8
Not enough beach access.....	6
Oversized trophy houses.....	6
High prices.....	5
Taxpayers Association.....	4
People/lack of community.....	4
Elitism .....	4
No town center.....	4
Need for teen gathering place.....	3
Poor communication.....	3
Airport modernization.....	3
Lack of winter activities.....	3
No harbor .....	2
No public transportation.....	2
Linda Bassett project.....	2
Isolation .....	2
Need more bike paths.....	2

What would you change?

Growth/development.....	30
New leadership/limit terms.....	11
3-acre zoning to cluster & villages...	9
Traffic - slow it down.....	9
More beach access.....	7
Public transportation.....	7
Community center.....	6
Bike paths.....	6
Tax breaks for open space.....	5
Roadside vistas - keep open.....	4
Density/suburbanization.....	3
Post Office back to town center.....	3

What values do you associate with WT/island life?

Friendly caring people/community.....	113
Rural character .....	42
Safe, clean .....	17
Nature/recreation .....	12

Participants' questionnaire results

..... 4

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Participants' questionnaire results

..... 5

What values do you associate with WT/Island life (cont'd)

Preservation..... 8  
Good schools ..... 6  
Non-materialistic ..... 5  
Simple life..... 6  
Beaches ..... 4

How important are they to you?

Very ..... 87

What qualities do you feel should be protected?

Rural qualities..... 48  
Community..... 23  
Open space/agriculture... 30  
Roadside vistas, trees... 16  
Beach access..... 7  
Air/water..... 6  
Safety..... 4  
Good schools..... 3  
Friendliness..... 3  
Land owners' rights..... 2  
Trails/bike paths..... 2

...enhanced?

Beach access..... 8  
Agricultural opportunities 5  
Trail system..... 2  
Town center..... 2

...changed?

Trees along roads..... 3  
Speed/traffic..... 3  
Zoning..... 3  
Bike paths..... 2

Have you had any problems living in West Tisbury?

No..... 43  
Yes (listed)  
taxes..... 22  
traffic..... 6  
Steamship Authority ..... 6  
neighbors..... 6  
isolation..... 4  
zoning..... 4  
high prices..... 3  
no public transportation..... 3  
summer crowds..... 3  
noise..... 3



# Participants' questionnaire results

..... 6

## What are your positive experiences?

Friendships/neighbors/community.....	54
Good school.....	11
Library .....	8
Walking .....	8
Good family life.....	6
New Ag Hall barn raising.....	5
Bicycling .....	4
Good leadership .....	4
Beach .....	4
Fair .....	3
Farmers market.....	3
Feeling safe.....	3
Alley's Store.....	2
Easy to get involved.....	2
Nature .....	2

## Do you feel an emotional attachment, weak or strong to WT?

Strong.....	96
Weak.....	14

## Are there town projects you would like to see happen?

Community center.....	34
Rewrite zoning bylaws.....	10
Buy open space.....	10
Bike paths .....	7
More composting/recycling.....	6
Fix old library/police station.....	6
Improve business district.....	5
Affordable housing.....	4
Public transportation.....	4
Swimming pool.....	4
Preserve historic buildings.....	3
More beach access.....	3
Reduce taxes.....	2
Walkways/sidewalks in bus. district...	2

## Are there town projects you wish hadn't happened?

North Tisbury business district.....	24
School addition.....	21
Move Post Office from Alley's.....	15
Widening roads.....	7
Airport development.....	5
Green road signs.....	4
Certain subdivisions.....	4
New Ag Hall.....	3
Alley's/Back Alley's.....	3
Transfer station.....	2
Regionalizing schools.....	2
Relocating library.....	2
Metal buildings (gymnastics/tennis)...	2

# Participants' questionnaire results

..... 6

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Transfer station.....	2
Regionalizing schools.....	2
Relocating library.....	2
Metal buildings (gymnastics/tennis)...	2

# Participants' questionnaire results

..... 7

## CURRENT ISSUES:

Do you favor retaining or disposing of town-owned buildings/property, i.e. the old library?

Retain .....	73
Not sure/want more information.....	19
Dispose .....	15

Would you be willing to see a small portion of tax dollars dedicated to repairs/maintenance for all town-owned properties??

Yes .....	73
Not sure/want more information.....	12
No .....	11

Would you support a plan to build an 18-hole golf course in town?

Yes .....	9
No .....	95
Want more information.....	8

Please describe what you consider to be the essence of West Tisbury; the qualities/places/people/buildings/aspects of life that define the town's character.

In general, people responded thoughtfully and poetically about their affection for the town. Some that stood out:

\* "Catching someone in the act of picking up someone else's litter along the road."

\* Lists of old-timer names and families.

\* The recycling center at the dump

\* "It's not too late for wise decision making."

\* A list of specific roads - Indian Hill, North Road,

Music Street...

\* "The coffee drinkers on the store porch."

(This compilation does not include single responses - those answers which appeared only once.)

## WEST TISBURY COMMUNITY PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE

Sent to Off-Island home owners

To be as inclusive as possible, the Planning Board sent this questionnaire to West Tisbury home owners who live off-island. While we encouraged off-island residents to attend the Community Profile weekend (we even offered weekend housing) we also realized that such a commitment was a long shot for most people. Of the 500-plus questionnaires sent off the island, we received 84 responses.

### DEMOGRAPHICS:

Where do you live off-island?

Massachusetts.....	23
New York.....	17
Connecticut.....	9
New Jersey.....	5
other.....	30

Is it rural, suburban or urban?

Urban.....	38
Suburban.....	37
Rural.....	11

How long have you been visiting West Tisbury?

1-2 yrs.....	0
2-5 yrs.....	5
5-9 yrs.....	8
10-19 yrs.....	22
20-29 yrs.....	17
30-39 yrs.....	10
40-49 yrs.....	10
50 plus years....	10

Do you own vacant land?

yes..... 12

One respondent said s/he plans to build in the next year.

Do you plan to move full-time to West Tisbury?

Yes.....	36
No.....	30
Maybe.....	15
Probably not.....	4

Will this be your retirement home?

Yes.....	38
No.....	16
Maybe/probably....	11
Part time.....	6

# Off-island questionnaire results

..... 2

## When?

0-5 yrs.....	17
5-10 yr.....	8
10 plus.....	3
20 plus.....	1

## Do you visit on a regular basis?

Yes.....	78
----------	----

## For how long?

Weekends.....	22
Weeks.....	8
Whole summer.....	16
As much as possible.....	5
It varies.....	9
Year-round.....	6
Months 0-6.....	10
Months 6-12.....	6

## Do you visit year-round?

Yes .....	36
No .....	12
Winter .....	5
Spring .....	21
Summer .....	22
Fall .....	17

## Do you rent your house to others?

Yes .....	35
No .....	45
Year round .....	6
Summer .....	30
Off-season .....	8

## Why did you choose to buy land/build in/live in West Tisbury?

Rural .....	27
Central location .....	20
Beauty .....	20
Beaches .....	10
Quiet .....	16
Quality of life .....	14
Like the people .....	12
Family connections .....	8
Affordable/good value .....	7
Privacy .....	7
Inherited .....	6
Ponds .....	5
Friends here .....	5
Open space .....	3
Unspoiled .....	3
Wildlife/ nature .....	3

# Off-island questionnaire results

..... 2

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5-10 yr..... 8  
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Affordable/good value ..... 7  
Privacy ..... 7  
Inherited ..... 6  
Ponds ..... 5  
Friends here ..... 5  
Open space ..... 3  
Unspoiled ..... 3  
Wildlife/ nature ..... 3

# Off-Island questionnaire results

..... 3

## What other town would you like/prefer to live in?

Chilmark ..... 20  
Vineyard Haven ..... 4  
Edgartown ..... 3  
Oak Bluffs ..... 2

## Your approximate age?

30-39 ..... 2  
40-49 ..... 11  
50-59 ..... 31  
60-69 ..... 26  
70-79 ..... 19  
80 plus ..... 3

## GENERAL:

### Do you subscribe to and read an island newspaper/magazine?

Vineyard Gazette ..... 66  
Martha's Vineyard Times ..... 22  
Martha's Vineyard Magazine .. 5  
None ..... 10  
"Only when we're here" ..... 12

### Do you feel well informed about West Tisbury issues?

Yes ..... 35  
No ..... 17  
Moderately ..... 15  
Somewhat ..... 9

### Island issues?

Yes ..... 41  
No ..... 9  
Somewhat ..... 20

### List the issues that you consider most important.

Growth/ development/ zoning etc. .... 40  
Preserve beauty/quality of life ..... 29  
Taxes ..... 23  
Traffic/ speed ..... 17  
Water / sewage / trash ..... 10  
Education ..... 10  
Health care / hospital ..... 9  
Ferry access / related issues ..... 9  
Commercial development ..... 4  
Government ..... 4  
Beach access ..... 4  
Sustainable year-round economy ..... 4  
Regionalism ..... 2  
Bike paths ..... 2

# Off-island questionnaire results

..... 4

## What issues are least important::

Ferry access/SSA policy.....	4
Ernie Boch .....	2
Commercial growth/expansion .....	2
Airport terminal.....	2
Turf wars with other towns .....	2
Public transportation .....	2
Social events/ town news .....	2
Schools .....	2

## Do you participate in West Tisbury activities?

Yes .....	46
No .....	28
Not yet .....	9

## Which ones?

Arts/ cultural .....	38
Environmental .....	26
Seniors/ hosp/ MVCS .....	19
Library .....	10
Farms/Ag Soc./farm mkt .....	2
Church .....	2

## What do you like best about West Tisbury?

Rural/ small town .....	33
Peace, quiet, friendly .....	16
Beauty .....	7
Beach .....	6
Good govt/ civic-minded .....	5
Everything .....	3
Non-commercial .....	2
Privacy .....	2

## What would you preserve?

Rural quality .....	34
Open space .....	22
Friendliness .....	3
Beaches .....	3
Dirt roads .....	3
Town center .....	2
Privacy .....	2

## What do you like least about West Tisbury?

Development/growth .....	13
Speeding vehicles/traffic .....	8
Taxes .....	8
Lack of beach/shore access/parking ...	7
North Tisbury business district .....	6
Huge houses .....	2

Off-island questionnaire results

..... 4

What issues are least important::  
Ferry access/SSA policy..... 4  
Ernie Boch ..... 2  
Commercial growth/expansion ..... 2  
Airport terminal..... 2  
Turf wars with other towns ..... 2  
Public transportation ..... 2  
Social events/ town news ..... 2  
Schools ..... 2

Do you participate in West Tisbury activities?  
Yes ..... 46  
No ..... 28  
Not yet ..... 9

Which ones?  
Arts/ cultural ..... 38  
Environmental ..... 26  
Seniors/ hosp/ MVCS ..... 19  
Library ..... 10  
Farms/Ag Soc./farm mkt ..... 2  
Church ..... 2

What do you like best about West Tisbury?  
Rural/ small town ..... 33  
Peace, quiet, friendly ..... 16  
Beauty ..... 7  
Beach ..... 6  
Good govt/ civic-minded ..... 5  
Everything ..... 3  
Non-commercial ..... 2  
Privacy ..... 2

What would you preserve?  
Rural quality ..... 34  
Open space ..... 22  
Friendliness ..... 3  
Beaches ..... 3  
Dirt roads ..... 3  
Town center ..... 2  
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Taxes ..... 8  
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North Tisbury business district ..... 6  
Huge houses ..... 2

Off-island questionnaire results

..... 5

What would you change?  
Zoning bylaws to control growth ..... 9  
Beach/ shore access ..... 8  
Commercial dev/ home businesses ..... 7  
Nothing ..... 7  
Taxes on seasonal residents ..... 6  
Traffic/ speeding vehicles ..... 5  
More bike paths ..... 5  
Affordable housing ..... 2  
Keep commercial in old center ..... 2  
Summer activities for kids ..... 2  
Need public transportation ..... 2

What values do you associate with WT/island life?  
Slow pace, quiet ..... 23  
Rural quality of life ..... 20  
Friendly, sense of community ..... 17  
Nature/ environment ..... 5  
Sensitivity/ good people ..... 3  
Safety ..... 3  
Non commercial ..... 2

How important are they to you?  
Very ..... 51  
Most/ extremely ..... 7

What qualities do you feel should be protected?  
Rural, friendly, quiet ..... 40  
Open space ..... 12  
Nature ..... 2

Enhanced?  
Friendly, rural etc ..... 3  
Shore/ pond access ..... 3

Changed?  
Stop/slow development ..... 3  
Limit promotion of island.. 2

Have you had problems living in West Tisbury?  
No ..... 32  
Yes (listed)  
ferry tickets/ reservations ..... 7  
tradesmen/service people don't show up etc 5  
getting to beach/ shore ..... 4  
speeding/traffic ..... 4  
tax increases ..... 4  
drinking water ..... 2  
rude, dismissive town employees ..... 2



Off-island questionnaire results

..... 6

What are your positive experiences?

Friendly people .....	24
All, many .....	12
Nature .....	6
Library .....	4
Police response .....	4
Farmers market .....	3
Bike paths/ state forest .....	3
Cooperative town officials .....	3
Recycling at dump .....	2
Worked on new Ag Hall - loved it..	2
Privacy, left alone .....	2
Walking .....	2
Service people friendly, helpful .	2
Ag Society .....	2

Do you feel an emotional attachment to WT?

Strong .....	74
Moderate .....	2
Weak .....	2

Any town projects you would like to see happen?

More bike paths .....	10
More beach access .....	7
Restore old Ag Hall .....	6
Fix up old police station .....	3
Expand library/ hrs .....	3
Trash/ water/ sewer .....	2
Slow down traffic .....	2
Public transportation .....	2
Community center/ kids camp ..	2

Are there any town projects you wish hadn't happened?

School expansion .....	8
Moving Post Office .....	3
North Tisbury business district.....	3
New Ag Hall .....	3
Transfer station .....	2

Do you favor retaining or disposing of town owned buildings/  
property, i.e. the old Library?

Retain .....	52
Want more info .....	15
Dispose .....	8

Would you be willing to see a small portion of tax dollars  
dedicated to repairs/maintenance for all town-owned  
properties?

Yes .....	42
Want more info .....	27
No .....	5

# Off-island questionnaire results

..... 6

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 All, many ..... 12  
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Yes ..... 42  
 Want more info ..... 27  
 No ..... 5

# Off-island questionnaire results

..... 7

## Do you plan to be buried in West Tisbury?

No ..... 30  
 Yes ..... 27  
 Maybe ..... 13  
 Don't know ..... 10  
 "Not yet" ..... 1

Please describe what you consider to be the essence of West Tisbury; the qualities/ places/ people/ buildings/ aspects of life that define the town's character.

Comments generally reflect the same sentiments as those of local residents - with the frequent exceptions that this is the place to unwind and relax; or requests to be included in the decision-making processes.

More typical is this observation from a faraway property owner: "stone walls.. old buildings.. farms.. simple lifestyle... Mill Pond... Tisbury Great Pond - Please leave them alone."

(This compilation does not include single responses - those answers which appeared only once.)

## AGENDA

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Facilitator, Delia Clark  
Institute for Community Environmental Management  
Antioch New England Graduate School, Keene, NH

- 5:30 Sign-in, pot luck supper  
6:30 WELCOME  
Overview of Community Profile process  
Who is here?
- 6:45 MOSAIC AND VISION  
What is West Tisbury like now?  
What do you want West Tisbury to be like in the future?
- 7:15 HOW DOES WEST TISBURY COMPARE?  
Presentation of census data compiled by Susan Wasserman
- 7:45 PRESENTATION OF COMMUNITY PROFILE COMPONENTS  
1 Effective Community Leadership: a broader definition  
2 Informed Citizen Participation: more than voter turnout  
3 Identifying Our Town's Character: what is West Tisbury?  
4 Education and Social Services: meeting our citizens' needs  
5 Taking Care of Our Citizens: health and housing  
6 Physical Infrastructure: the basics that serve our needs  
7 The Use of Natural Resources: water, energy and materials  
8 How the Community Looks and Feels: town, farms, open space and beaches  
9 Economic Vitality: stability through diversity  
10 Growth and Development: are we planning well?
- 8:15 SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS OF COMPONENTS  
Random assignments to small groups, one component per group:  
- Strengths of West Tisbury in the component area  
- Weaknesses  
- What would you like to see in the future?  
- What are the five key issues that need to be addressed?
- 9:30 ADJOURN

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- What are the five key issues that need to be addressed?
- 9:30 ADJOURN

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

- 8:45 Coffee and check-in
- 9:00 SMALL GROUP REPORTS  
Each of the ten small groups reports to the large group, five minutes each
- 9:50 SELECTION OF KEY ISSUES  
Discussion to refine list of 50 Key Issues down to about ten, based on consensus
- 10:25 INDIVIDUAL SELECTION OF KEY ISSUE  
Participants select small group/issue to work on
- 10:30 BREAK
- 10:45 SMALL GROUPS MEET FOR KEY ISSUES DISCUSSION  
\* Define the problem or opportunity  
\* Project goals - identify what you want to accomplish  
\* Identify potential projects/ solutions  
\* Evaluate potential projects using impact feasibility grid  
\* Select three projects to bring to full group
- 12:15 LUNCH
- 1:00 REPORT BACK FROM SMALL GROUPS
- 2:00 VOTING  
Which project do you think we should move forward on?  
Which is the most important project for West Tisbury right now?
- 2:15 INDIVIDUAL SELECTION OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GROUPS
- 2:30 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT - Small groups  
\* Goals and objectives  
\* Potential obstacles, solutions  
\* Resources needed  
\* Principal leadership  
\* Action steps  
\* Timeline  
\* Coordinator, first step
- 4:00 WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? - Full group  
\* Action format - task forces or full body?  
\* How to communicate with each other and the community  
\* Future meetings  
\* Who should be included?
- 4:30 ADJOURN

## COMMUNITY PROFILE - FRIDAY EVENING

After a bounteous pot luck feast in the school cafeteria, participants met in the gym for an overview of the two-day event and an introduction to the goals of the process. Delia Clark briskly captured and kept our attention by having us respond by standing vote to questions about ourselves - how long we have lived in town, where we work, how many of us have children in the schools, where we get our news (word of mouth, mostly), and whether we were born in West Tisbury. (Our questionnaire results, elsewhere in this report, provide much of this data.)

Delia asked us to shout out words or phrases to describe West Tisbury as it is now. These were some of the responses, recorded on easels at the front of the room.

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farmers market  
nice dump  
too much paving  
in need of bike paths  
need to protect water, air  
inadequate ocean access  
no affordable housing  
over policed  
fun for kids  
boring for teenagers  
horse country  
unchanging leadership  
non-commercial  
vacation resort  
no winter meeting place  
last vestage of small town USA  
no beaches  
unlike Edgartown  
losing country roads  
too many trophy houses  
Humphries  
charter school  
expensive housing  
exclusig  
extensive agreage in conservation  
excellent library  
not enough space  
formerly agricultural  
crowded  
suburban  
eclectic  
over-developed  
farming  
friendly  
scenic  
silent town meetings  
too many signs  
three-acre zoning  
Athens of the island  
historic consciousness  
confused  
centrally located  
good looking  
generous  
perishable  
bikable  
walkable  
God's country  
not what it was  
convenient  
in-bred

Howes House  
great EMTs  
dangerous strip development  
overlighting  
great oysters  
State Road  
too many people  
need extensive bike trails  
cares about school  
overly concerned about school  
good place to be buried  
consistent leadership  
safe  
safe from what?  
not fun for kids  
unsustainable  
no natural harbor  
sitting duck for slick talkers  
vacation resort  
small town America  
rural  
busy  
transitional  
growing  
beautiful  
comfortable  
open space  
great volunteer fire department  
fair  
volunteers  
space buildings  
beautiful birds  
too many deer and deer ticks  
too many lights on houses  
not enough acreage in conservation  
commitment to problem solving  
public safety education  
tax rate  
struggling general store  
well educated  
available  
arts-conscious  
part of an island  
civic minded  
diverse  
predominately white  
commercial growth  
consistent leadership

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vacation resort	safe from what?
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friendly	too many lights on houses
scenic	not enough acreage in conservation
silent town meetings	commitment to problem solving
too many signs	public safety education
three-acre zoning	tax rate
Athens of the island	struggling general store
historic consciousness	well educated
confused	available
centrally located	arts-conscious
good looking	part of an island
generous	civic minded
perishable	diverse
bikable	predominately white
walkable	commercial growth
God's country	consistent leadership
not what it was	
convenient	
in-bred	

## THE VISION - West Tisbury in the future - How we wish it would be

affordable housing alternatives	public transportation
not suburban	teen mentor program
control strip malls	10-acre zoning
excellent education	no more building
beach access	all island health insurance
zero taxes	better health care
summer camp for kids	less traffic
like it was 20 years ago	sustainable economy
pollution-free	moderate growth
dirt roads	housing for islanders
incentives for open space	old Alley's
safe drinking water	eco-swimming pool
open beaches	clustered housing
open ancient ways	all beaches public
year-round economy	bury power lines
no jets at airport	eliminate polluting septic
limit noise and light pollution	bring back old movies
get rid of sodium lighting	tollgate at town borders
ability to drive to VH in summer	lower tax rate for open space
ban jet skis	fewer offices
get most out of old Ag Hall	cheaper food
community center	lower taxes
weekly town pot lucks	more minorities
continued tolerance of diversity	center for teens
competitive alternatives to SSA	preserve historic buildings
limit terms of office	pleasing architecture
more people willing to run for office	improve recycling
center for artists	summer camp for adults
no more bike paths	protect environment
public walking access over 10 acres	less consumption
less consumption	community participation
no more little green road signs	limit blacktop
increase public shellfishing	local jobs for local people
no more growth	remain unique
continue being a dry town	island wide subway system
keep small town character	
keep town for others to enjoy	
canopy of trees along roadside	
cluster vs conventional zoning	
easier way to get off island	
limit utility poles	
encourage arts	
preserve agricultural heritage	
ban mopeds	
encourage mopeds	
SSA responsive to island	
change 3rd world airport	
no airport	
access to old public buildings	
active community gathering space	
insist on limiting cars to island	
center for barter of goods and services	
build adequate roads for public transit	
dedicated bike path to town center	
ownership of beach property to high tide	
fiber-optic cable link for people who want it	
give people back right to control their own property	
town policy to support public gifts for open space	

# **West Tisbury Statistics**

## **Community Profile**

**March 1997**

This segment of the Community Profile highlights some statistics about West Tisbury. The specific numbers presented here are not nearly as important as the overall picture they present—where we have been, roughly where we are and where we are going. And they are not necessarily the most important numbers that describe the health of our community or measure the areas of interest for most of us. For example, the US Census does not collect the number of people who attend school committee budget hearings, or even the number of people who attend town meeting or the number of volunteer hours given to the town. It is up to us to identify statistics that will be helpful to us in assessing the health of our community and in charting our accomplishments.

### **HISTORY**

West Tisbury was founded in 1892, breaking away from Tisbury because town residents felt their interests and focus were different. It was, actually, a tax revolt. Today, West Tisbury is the bucolic heart of the island. We pride ourselves on our rural qualities, well-protected natural resources, resident writers and artists, our beautiful beaches, our neighborly sense of community, our little villages, fertile farmland (a winery, a strawberry farm, a llama farm and hundreds of sheep, cows and truck gardens), our summer farmer's market and our renowned August agricultural fair. As the following figures will illustrate, we are stable, employed, well schooled and civic minded.

### **POPULATION**

The population of Martha's Vineyard has experienced long periods of stagnation and shorter bursts of growth. We had 5,700 people in 1935, 5570 in 1950 and 12,205 in 1995, more than doubling over 60 years (Fig. 1). The island has been among the leaders in Massachusetts population growth for the last two decades. The US Census total population estimate for the six island towns shows that between 1970 and 1985, our year round population doubled and in West Tisbury it more than tripled—from 453 to 1510. The growth rate for the rest of the island was approximately 30%. That growth now has slowed somewhat. At the end of last year (1996), the Town Clerk estimates that we had 2400 year round residents. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate both the population and how it is

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Figure 1

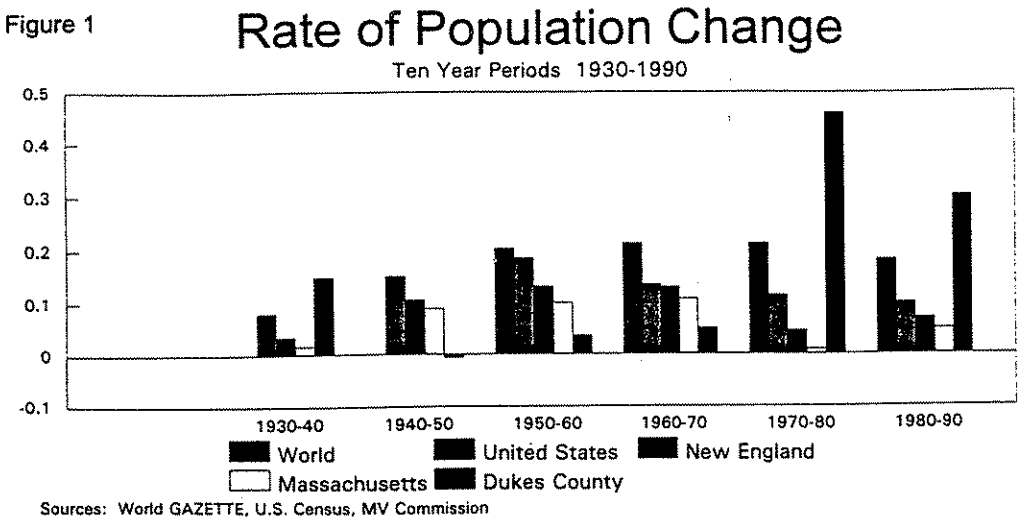


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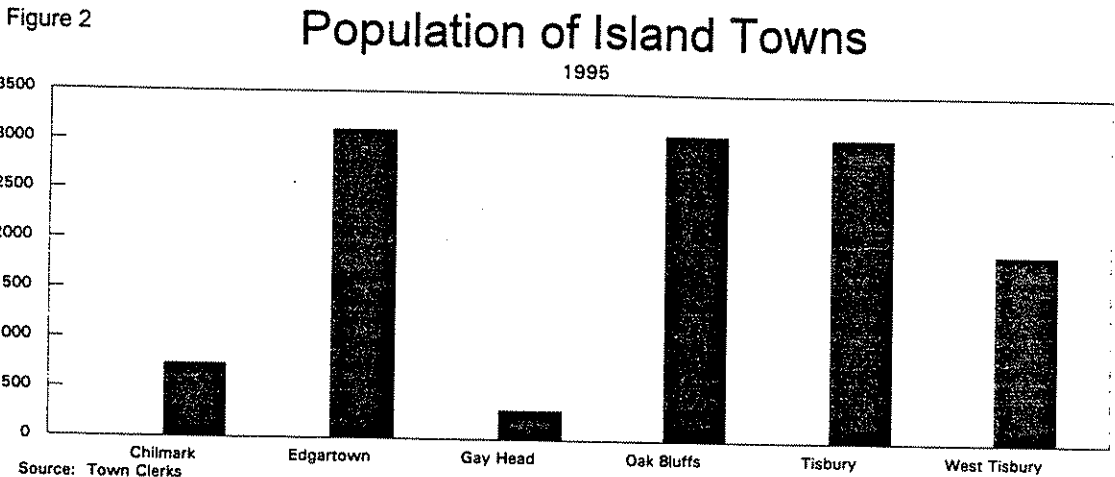
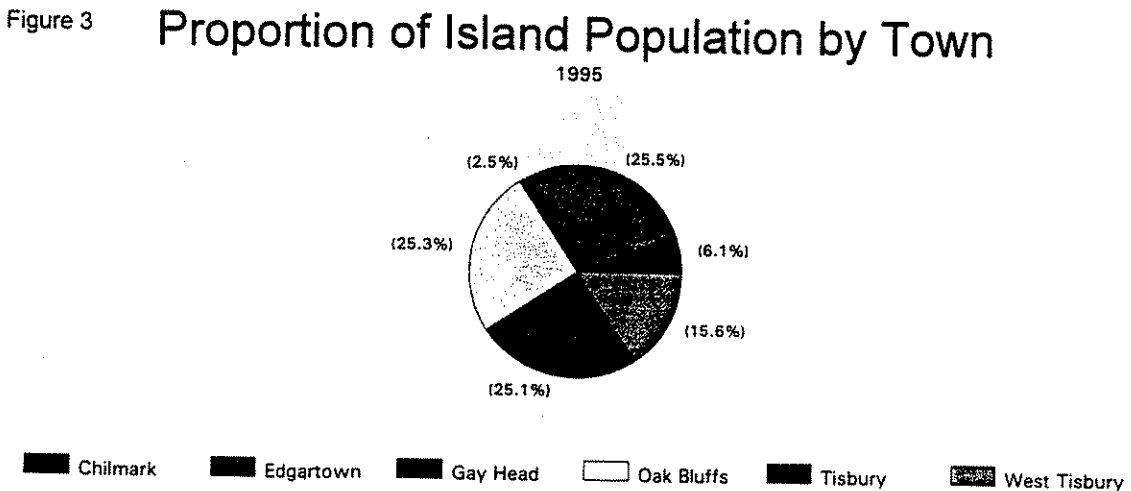


Figure 3





proportioned among the island towns. A look at the figures for resident births and deaths makes it apparent that immigration to the island accounts for most of this increase. The attractiveness of Martha's Vineyard as a tourist and retiree destination, especially in light of its proximity to Boston, New York and Washington, help make it an appealing place to relocate. The seasonal population is much larger, although that data are much less precise (Fig.4) Recent estimates by the MV Commission place the West Tisbury summer population over 7,000.

West Tisbury has gradually grown relative to other island towns, from about 6% of the population to 15 ½% (Fig. 5)—we are still one of the fastest growing towns on the island.

Fig.6-7 show the change in age group distribution since 1940 on Martha's Vineyard.

The proportion of residents who register and vote is one very good measure of how active and involved citizens are. West Tisbury stands up very well; only in Chilmark did a higher percentage of registered voters vote in the last presidential election—87% to our 80%. (See figures 8 and 9). The island as a whole showed more interest than most of the country. Less than 50% of those eligible voted across the US in the same election.

## LAND USE

The Vineyard landscape is changing.

"No one who has spent more than a season or two on Martha's Vineyard can fail to be impressed with the variety and speed of changes that occur in the natural environment. Single storms frequently rearrange the island—the beach connecting Chappaquiddick to Katama is severed and rebuilt, the Gay Head cliffs continually reveal an ever-changing spectrum of colored sands and clays as they erode; the bulldozers train to remove the sand from the Beach Road constructed on the barrier beach along Sengekontacket, left by the latest powerful northeast storm. In most places, such geological events that whittle down hills and cause roads to vanish occur on a time scale so greatly exceeding a human life span as to be of no concern from our brief perspective of a few decades. An Amherst resident does not notice the weathering of the Holyoke range. Stately colonial homes in Salem are not moved because they are in danger of toppling into an ocean that has brought the shoreline into their yards. But the Vineyard marches to a much more energetic drummer, and our houses and roads are more mobile

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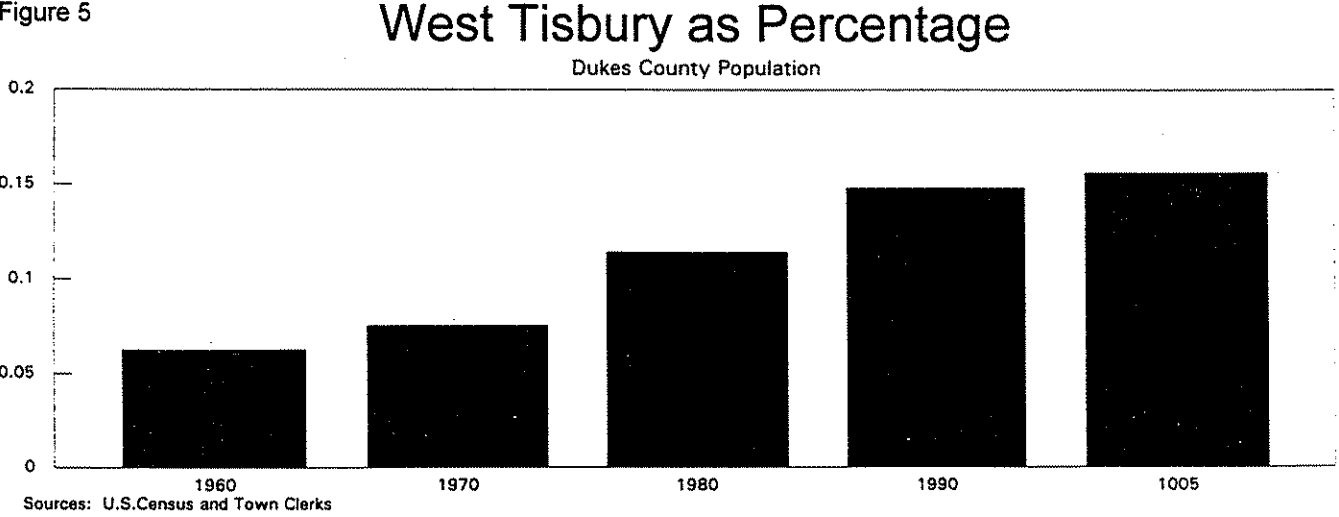
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West Tisbury and Vineyard Populations

	Martha's Vineyard		West Tisbury		West Tisbury as % of Martha's Vineyard	
	year round	seasonal *	year-round	seasonal **	year-round	seasonal
1950	5570	40000	353	1186	6.34%	2.97%
1960	5763	40000	360	1497	6.25%	3.74%
1970	6034	40000	453	2144	7.51%	5.36%
1980	8879	77113	1010	4245	11.38%	5.50%
1990	*11954	88756	1704	6235	14.25%	7.02%
1995	13773	102193	1900	7225	13.80%	7.07%
% change 1970-95	2.28	2.55	4.19	3.37	*1996 Data Report says 11541	

\* Seasonal population figures from 1920-1970 from Vineyard Gazette (Eulalie Reagan); from 1980 to 1995 from estimates made by the Martha's Vineyard Commission;  
\*\*Seasonal population for 1980 and later from MVC estimates. For earlier years, calculated as 4.65 times the number of houses in town. (This is the proportion between seasonal population and number of houses in 1995.)

Figure 5



## Population Trends

### Population by Age, 1990

	All ages	0-4	5-19	20-44	45-64	65-79	80+
West Tisbury	1,704	162	336	736	293	146	31
Total	867	90	189	359	143	70	16
M	837	72	147	377	150	76	15
F							
Dukes County	11,639	826	2,053	4,769	2,158	1,394	439
Total	5,648	441	1,033	2,392	1,047	592	143
M	5,991	385	1,020	2,377	1,111	802	296
F							

Source: MISER

### Population Trends

Place/Year	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995
West Tisbury	360	389	453	699	1010	1250	1704	1900
Martha's Vineyard	5763	5887	6034	7933	8879	10900	11541	12205
WT as % of Dukes	6.25%	6.61%	7.51%	8.81%	11.38%	11.47%	14.76%	15.57%

Sources: US Census, Decennial Counts and Mid-Decade Estimates; Town Clerks, 1995 Estimates

### Population Distribution by Age Group

	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	Change 1960 to 90	Change 1970 to 90
Under 5 yrs.	417	543	505	395	537	848	1.68	2.15
5 to 14	942	889	1013	1046	1224	1480	1.46	1.41
15 to 19	471	377	394	484	551	575	1.46	1.19
20 to 34	1178	1021	793	925	2234	2433	3.07	2.63
35 to 59	1736	1769	1790	1752	2273	3907	2.18	2.23
60 and older	925	1034	1331	1515	2123	2396	1.80	1.58
Total	5669	5633	5826	6117	8942	11639	2.00	1.90

Source: US Census

Population Trends

Population by Age, 1990

	All ages						20-44						45-64						65-79						80+					
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Source: US Census

Figure 8

Vineyard Voters Who Voted

Presidential Election - 1996

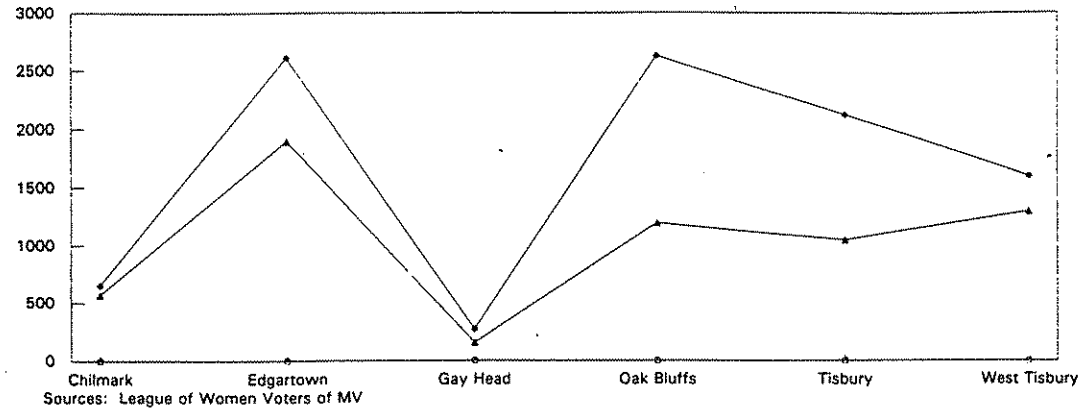
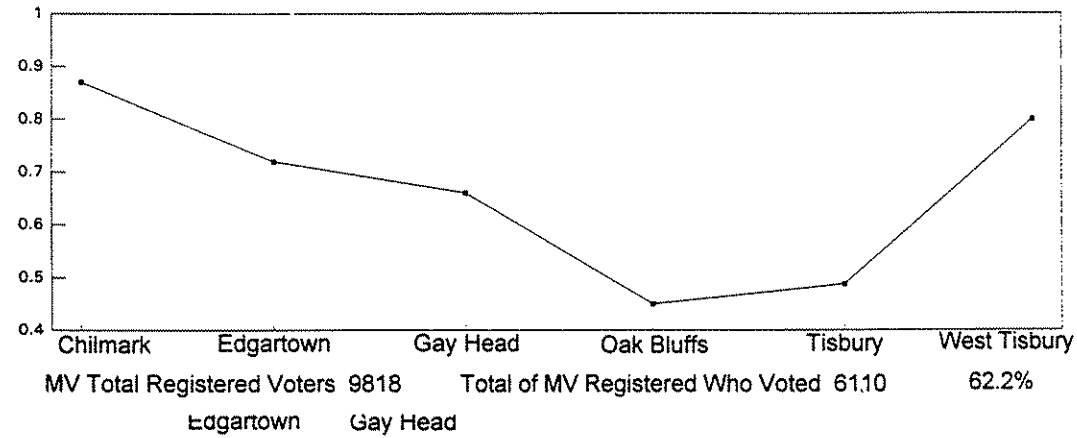


Figure 9

Percent of Registered Voters

Who Voted for President - 1996



as a result." (Page 11, MARTHA'S VINEYARD LANDSCAPES:  
The Nature of Change)

Fields, forests, and plants are subject to this same kind of growth and change. People living today tell stories about driving from West Tisbury to Gay Head and being able to see the ocean the entire way—what a change in one generation. Our West Tisbury land use has changed in equally dramatic ways.

While more acres have been purchased or restricted for conservation, agricultural use has been shrinking (Fig. 12).

#### Fig. 10—West Tisbury Land Use 1950-1995

To make realistic growth estimates, one must know how the land is subdivided and owned and the regulations on its future development. Our town master plan states that January 1, 1986, we had 2,381 separate parcels of land, with 1,000 vacant residentially zoned lots. The plan stated,

"Even with no further subdivision activity, West Tisbury's population can be projected to [grow to] more than twice its present size as these lots are built on. Subdivision activity, however, is occurring at a fairly steady rate." (Page 10-11)

In 1985-86 the minimum lot size in West Tisbury was increased from 1 ½ to 3 acre residential zoning. Assuming grandfather protection of all existing lots over 5,000 square feet and total utilization of the opportunity to construct subordinate dwellings (guest houses), the total number of dwellings might be 7073 and using a figure of 2.87 (US Census 1990) per dwelling, our future population is projected to be 20,299 sometime in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Figure 13 illustrates the fluctuation over the last 15 years in residential building permits. These numbers represent new houses.

Bill Wilcox and the MV Commission constructed the most up-to-date map of land uses in West Tisbury for the Community Profile in March 1997. He was able to identify approximately 90 parcels of dedicated land including acreage owned by the Town, Island conservation organizations, the county and state, and deeded restrictions and easements. This represents a total of 6229 acres.

## HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Another measure of West Tisbury's community profile is average household size. Figure 14 shows the increase in the number of households and the increase in the members of these households. West Tisbury has more people per household than the Vineyard average.

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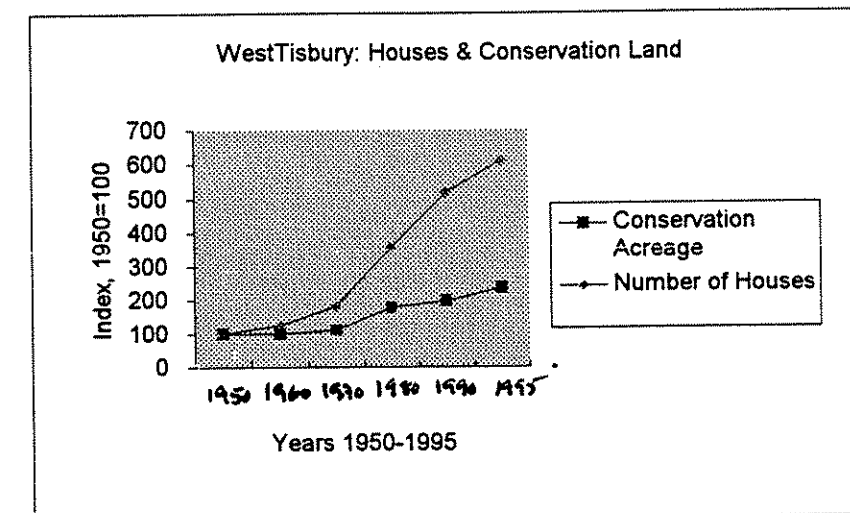
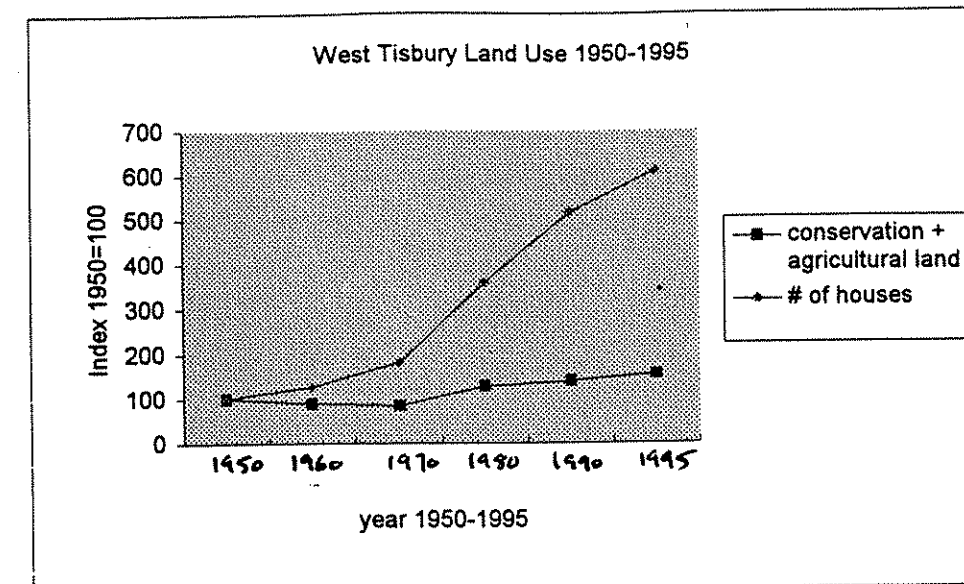
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West Tisbury 25.46 square miles

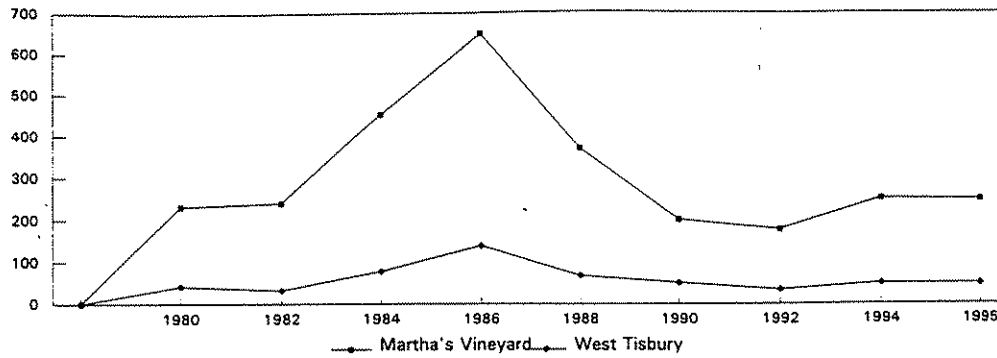
year	acres of agricultural	acres of conservation	# houses	year-round population	persons per sq mile	seasonal population
1950	1600	2475	255	353	14.12	1186
1960		2475	322	360	14.4	1497
1970	710	2735	461	453	18.1	2144
1980	776	4421	913	1010	40.4	7560
1990		4856	1320	1704	68.2	6235
1995	431	5845	1554	1900	76.0	7225
% chg50 t	26.94%	236.16%	609.41%	538.24%	538.24%	609.19%

Seasonal population for 1980 and later from MVC estimates. For earlier years, calculated as 4.65 times the number of houses in town. (This is the proportion between seasonal population and number of houses in 1995.)

Figure 13

## Residential Building Permits

1980-1995



## West Tisbury Building Permits

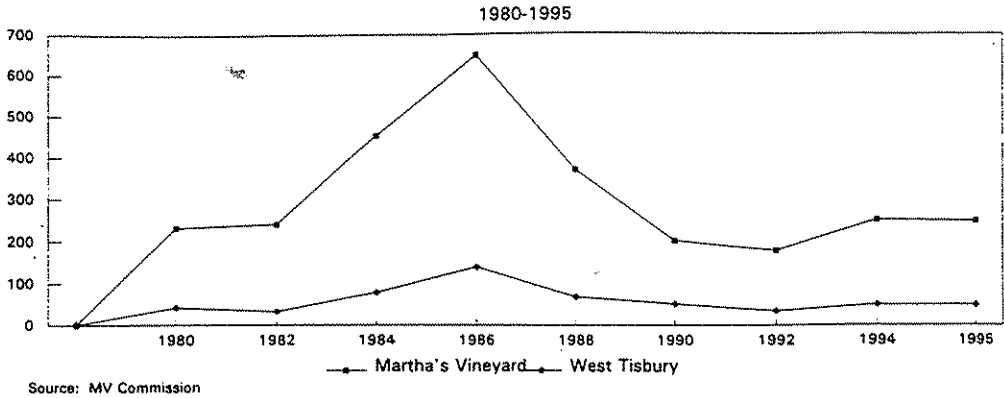
## Building Permits - West Tisbury

1976	21
1978	15
1980	41
1981	31
1982	32
1983	74
1984	77
1985	79
1986	140
1987	73
1988	68
1989	48
1990	50
1991	50
1992	34
1993	53
1994	49
1995	48
1996	

## Single/Two Family building permits

Figure 13

Residential Building Permits



West Tisbury Building Permits

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1996	

Single/Two Family building permits

Figure 14

Household Characteristics

Number of Households		1980	1990
	MV	3963	5003
	WT	418	432
Average Household Size			
	MV	2.24	2.31
	WT	2.42	2.87
Average # Adults/Household			
	MV	1.76	1.77
	WT	1.73	1.98
Median Rent (2 Bedrooms)			
	MV		\$647.00
	WT		\$770.00



#### **SCHOOLS**

Figure 15 shows Public School Enrollment. The US Census does not break down figures by schools attended, but rather by Kindergarten through 6 Grade and Seventh through Twelfth grade, so these numbers do not reflect the number of children in our Up Island Regional School.

The adult population has a high educational attainment relative to the rest of the island, the state and the nation. Fig. 16 illustrates these differences.

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

Officially collected employment statistics do not totally reflect activities in a seasonal, tourist based economy like the Vineyard. The attached employment figures are for the Vineyard as a whole, not just for West Tisbury. Since 1985, the proportion of jobs in various sectors has remained fairly constant. Jobs in services, retail trade and construction have grown somewhat. The size of firms on the Vineyard is small—over 50% of them have between one and four employees. Only a very small number of businesses employ more than 50 people.

In Figure 17, West Tisbury appears to have a more stable base of employment than other island towns. While all towns experience the August employment peak and the January-February slump, West Tisbury has less seasonal fluctuation.

#### **Fig 18—pie chart of employment by industry from Data Report 1996**

Two important points are that real incomes have increased absolutely and also in relation to national averages (Fig. 19). In 1970, the median family income on Martha's Vineyard was 11% below the national median; by 1990, Martha's Vineyard was 17% above the national median. Even between 1980 and 1990, West Tisbury's average per capita income rose from 91% of the national average to 114% of the national figure.

#### **HOUSING COSTS**

Another way to understand employment and income figures is to look at how much housing costs. Figure 20 shows household income and compares it to rental and purchase price statistics.

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

In recent years all of us have become more aware of our growing popularity and increasing traffic. The SSA brought 16% more cars to the island in 1990 than in 1995 (185,583), and passengers increased 25% to 1,071,984 in 1995. Figure 21

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#### Educational Attainment, 1990

	West Tisbury	Martha's Vineyard	MA	U.S.
not high school graduate	5.8%	12.5%	20.0%	24.8%
high school graduate	20.9%	29.6%	29.7%	30.0%
some college	24.2%	18.5%	15.8%	18.7%
associate degree	10.8%	10.1%	7.2%	6.2%
bachelor's degree	26.6%	21.7%	16.6%	13.1%
graduate/professional degree	11.7%	10.5%	10.6%	7.2%
Persons 25 years and older				
High school graduate or higher	94.2%	90.4%	80.0%	75.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher	38.4%	32.1%	27.2%	20.3%

Figure 17

## West Tisbury Employment Characteristics

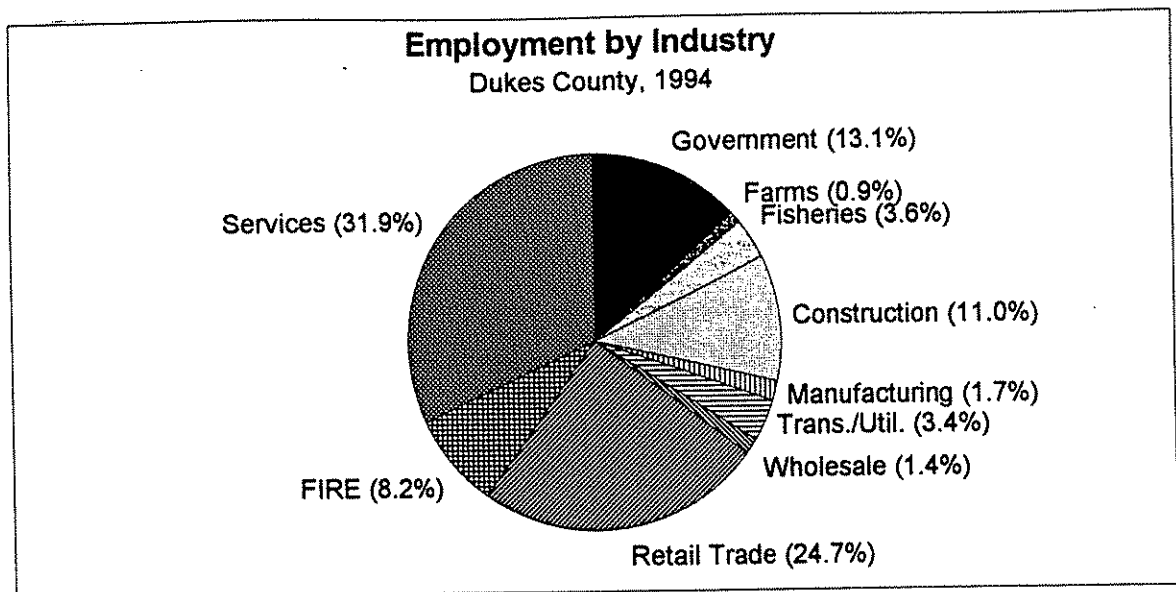
Our 1995 unemployment rate is just under 4%.

West Tisbury has the least summer/winter unemployment flux of any island town.

Dukes County in 1995 varied from January high—12% to August low—under 4%.

In order of unemployment flux:

Gay Head had the highest summer/winter difference  
Edgartown  
Tisbury  
Oak Bluffs  
Chilmark  
West Tisbury



Source: US BEA

## Incomes - Family and Per Capita

### Median Family Income

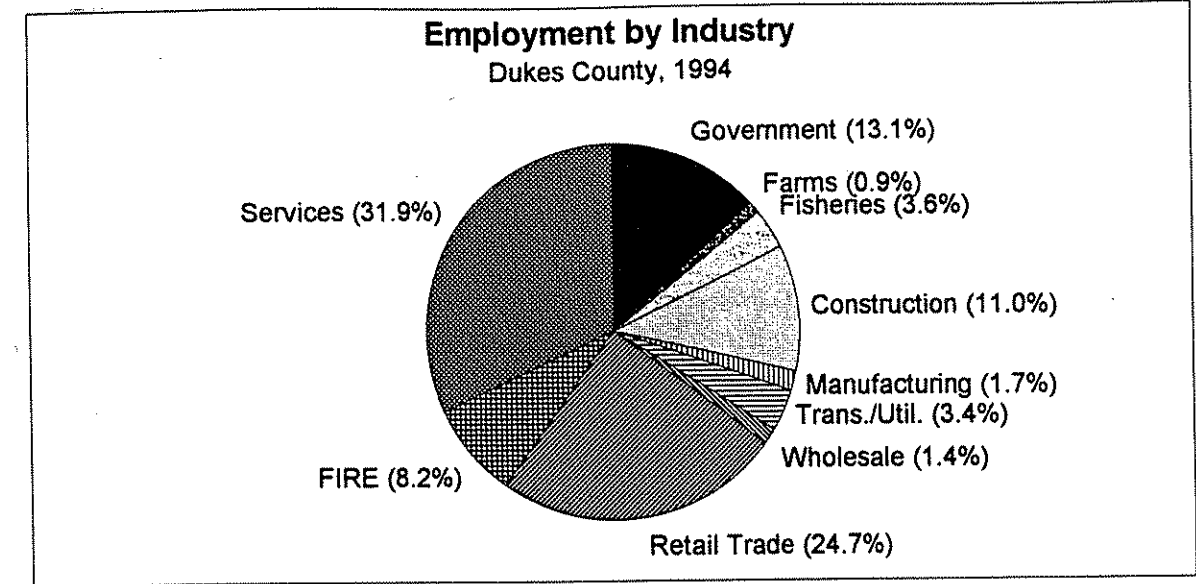
	West Tisbury	Martha's Vineyard	Massachusetts	United States
1970		8578	10835	9586
1980		16471	21166	21023
1990	39423	41369	44367	35225
% change 1970-90		4.82	4.09	3.67

Source: US Census

### Income per Capita

	West Tisbury	Martha's Vineyard	Massachusetts	United States
1970		3237	3408	3177
1980	7125	7322	7458	7787
1990	16428	18280	17224	14420
% change 1970-90		5.65	5.05	4.54
% change 1980-90	2.31	2.50	2.31	1.85

Source: US Census



Source: US BEA

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Source: US Census

**West Tisbury Housing Costs**

**Housing Costs in Relation to Household Income, 1990**

	West Tisbury	Martha's Vineyard	Massachusetts	United States	Barnstable County	Nantucket
Median household income	32422	31994	36952	30056	31766	40331
Median rental per month	770	647	580	447	546	926
Rental costs as % median monthly income	0.285	0.243	0.188	0.178	0.244	0.276
Median house value (owner-occupied)		195000	162800	79100	168800	299400
House cost as % annual household income		6.09	4.41	2.63	5.31	7.42
Average household size	2.47	2.31	2.58	2.63	2.3	2.29
Average number of adults	1.98	1.77				

**Vineyard Arrivals**

	Registered Vehicles	SSA Passenger	All boat Passenger	SSA Autos	SSA Trucks	Air Passengers
1970	6731	362243	362243	68795	12612	16775
1975		489159	489159	82191	13510	22653
1980	9492	591722	701327	101210	18906	29278
1985	12394	668103	781956	119572	24578	62597
1990	13654	858964	979118	159868	34557	41204
1995	15093	1071984	1211308	185583	33024	54418
%change 1970 to 95	2.2423	2.9593	3.3439	2.6976	2.6185	3.244
%change 1980 to 95	1.5901	1.8116	1.7272	1.8336	1.7467	1.8587

All passenger and vehicle arrivals are one-way; that is, all are calculated as arrivals on the Vineyard, not round trips.  
A major strike in 1960 reduced the number of trips made by the Steamship Authority.

shows passengers, autos and trucks carried by the Steamship Authority from 1970 to 1995.

Figure 22 lists West Tisbury Vehicle Registrations (cars and trucks). The number of vehicles registered at island addresses has increased dramatically. In 1995, there were 1.2 vehicles registered on the island for every year round resident.

## TAXES

And finally, another comparison between island communities can be made with tax rates per thousand, see Figure 23.

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West Tisbury Vehicles and Houses

Registered Vehicles and Number of Houses - West Tisbury

Year	# vehicles	# houses	vehicles per house
1950		255	
1960		322	
1970	683	461	1.5
1980	1101	913	1.2
1990	1844	1320	1.4
1995	2174	1554	1.4

Figure 23

Town Tax Rates Per Thousand on Residential Properties

	FY 1990	FY 1991	FY 1992	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1995
Chilmark	\$2.81	\$2.80	\$2.88	\$2.91	\$3.00	\$3.00
Edgartown	\$5.60	\$6.40	\$6.74	\$6.90	\$6.92	\$7.27
Gay Head	\$3.86	\$4.48	\$4.69	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oak Bluffs	\$6.54	\$6.94	\$7.47	\$9.81	\$9.93	\$11.85
Tisbury	\$7.82	\$9.04	\$11.19	\$14.17	\$14.71	\$14.70
West Tisbury	\$4.81	\$5.63	\$6.19	\$7.00	\$7.66	\$8.20

Note: From 1991 to present Tisbury has charged a slightly higher rate for commercial property

## THE TEN COMPONENTS

Delia Clark next introduced ten qualities which can be used to create a Community Profile. The topics, in general terms, were developed by the National Civic League and adapted for West Tisbury by steering committee co-chairs Kate Warner and Toni Cohen, with help from Delia.

These components make a community work - they help towns plan for the future and survive dramatic changes such as population growth or major institutional change. They are:

### CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Effective Community Leadership: a broader definition
2. Informed Citizen Participation: more than voter turnout
3. Identifying Our Town's Character: what is West Tisbury?

### COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

4. Education and Social Services: meeting our citizens' needs
5. Taking Care of Our Citizens: health and housing
6. Physical Infrastructure and Services: the basics that serve our needs

### ENVIRONMENT

7. Use of Natural Resources: water, energy and materials
8. How the Community Looks and Feels: town, farms, beaches

### ECONOMY AND GROWTH

9. Economic Vitality: stability through diversity
10. Growth and Development: are we planning well?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Participants were randomly assigned to one of ten discussion groups set up in classrooms throughout the school. Each group, led by two local facilitators, talked about one of the ten components, listing the strengths and then the weaknesses or concerns relating to the topic. After reviewing the lists, as recorded at the front of the room on large sheets of newsprint, each group narrowed the list to five key issues which most urgently need attention.

This section of the report defines the topic, proposes questions the group needed to think about, and then lists the key issues agreed to by consensus.

## CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE

### 1. EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP: A Broader Definition Facilitator: Fran Finnigan and Art Nelson

The public, private and nonprofit sectors must all develop leaders who can cooperate with each other in enhancing the long-term future of the community. Leadership must be responsive, honest, efficient, enlightened, fair and accountable. Leaders should be representative of their community, and should have both a grasp of the community's problems and the ability to envision an economically secure, environmentally sound and socially viable future. Leaders should be attuned to the potential to expand opportunities and to solve problems of the town by cooperating with other neighboring communities.

- \* Is there active leadership in all three sectors of the community? public, private and nonprofit?
- \* Do leaders seek out the interests and ideas of local citizens?
- \* Do they represent diverse community interests (age and gender groups, length of time they have resided in the town, etc.)
- \* Do leaders demonstrate knowledge, accountability, professionalism, and innovation?
- \* Is leadership results-oriented?
- \* Are leaders willing to take appropriate risks?
- \* Do leaders demonstrate long-range (20+ years) thinking? Do they understand the impacts of their actions on the long term health and vitality of the town?
- \* Are leaders willing to consider and utilize alternative methods for delivering services, and to undertake regional solutions where appropriate?
- \* Do all three sectors actively recruit, train and empower new leaders?
- \* Do leaders have a common forum to discuss issues with other leaders in the region? How do region-wide policy conflicts get resolved?
- \* How effective is Town Meeting as a forum?

### FIVE KEY ISSUES:

Leadership committed to and given resources for professional long range planning, representing the will of the people.  
Help seasonal residents find a voice in town affairs/ tap into rich pool of (seasonal) talents.

### Regionalization

Maintain and encourage the high level of present leadership through a system of nurturing future leaders.

Combine private non-profit and public leadership resources island-wide, focusing on issues such as arts, teens, elderly, hospital, SSA.



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## 2. INFORMED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: More Than Voter Turnout Facilitators: Tad Crawford and Ursula Ferro

If a community is to be strong, citizens must participate through voting in local elections, serving on government boards, attending public hearings and being active in solving town issues. Declining ability of government to meet community needs means that philanthropy and volunteerism become even more important. All citizens need to develop knowledge and skills to contribute to community life. All sectors within a community - private, public and nonprofit - must each take responsibility for the community's civic education and generate and share information with the public. Sharing in problem solving and planning for the future increases pride in the community and can result in an ethic of giving and sharing as a way of life.

- \* Do citizens know how the system works?
- \* Is it easy for newcomers to get involved in the community?
- \* How do people find out what is going on in the community?
- \* What is the level of volunteerism and philanthropy in the community?
- \* Are citizens actively involved in major projects?
- \* Do citizens volunteer to serve on local boards and committees?
- \* How well do local committees and boards communicate with each other and the public and with other boards and committees throughout the region?
- \* Is public input sought in an effective manner?
- \* Is the public informed?
- \* Is there both adequate and balanced media coverage of local events and issues?
- \* Do schools, churches, youth and civic groups provide citizen education and promote community service?
- \* Do citizens have the information they need to make good decisions?
- \* Do small, specific conflicts escalate into larger issues?
- \* Is participation pro-active or reactive?
- \* Does the community deal with critical issues before they become crises?
- \* Do formal and informal forums exist for sharing ideas and resolving public issues?

#### FIVE KEY ISSUES

Educate people on how to access the government system and how it works

Improve two-way communication between government and citizens

- a. Define ways to communicate on community issues to the greatest number of people.
- b. Find more/best ways that community leaders can get information from all constituents (including seasonal residents.)

Increase opportunities for more interaction between citizens ... e.g. town partying.

Improve town's impact on regional issues by strengthening West Tisbury's identity.

Encourage openness to new ideas and innovation with less resistance.

## COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

### 3. IDENTIFYING OUR TOWN'S CHARACTER: What is West Tisbury?

Facilitators: Bill Bennett and Carol Borer

Part of what makes for the character of a town is its history, its buildings, its open spaces, its people. Identifying what people think of as the qualities of their town is helpful in knowing how to guide its future in times of growth and change: what people would like to preserve, what should be different. It can also help define goals for ways to build community at times when growth is making it harder for people to feel connected. Arts, festivals and celebrations also can reflect and build a community's positive sense of itself and strengthen the fabric of all social interactions within the community.

- \* What is the community's self image?
- \* Are there different parts of the town? Are some more successful than others?
- \* What kind of a life exists in West Tisbury?
- \* What kind of diversity is there?
- \* Who lives here?
- \* Where do we have to congregate? Are there places for easy social interaction? Are they being maintained?
- \* What is our town center? And how alive is it?
- \* Does the community preserve and enhance what is special and unique about itself?
- \* How do children fit into our community? How are they included?
- \* How do the elderly fit into our community? How are they included?
- \* What ways does the community celebrate itself?
- \* How is social and cultural diversity celebrated in the community?
- \* What are the special cultural centers, events and festivals within the community?
- \* Do many townspeople participate in these events?
- \* Are these events well known within the community? Outside the community?
- \* How much communication is there among diverse interest groups in the community such as natives/newcomers, summer/year-round residents, young parents/retirees as well as the business community, etc.? Is this important?

## FIVE KEY ISSUES

Land Use - visual, historical center, open space

Transportation

Communication - intra-government, inter-generational

Recreation - youth, town

Sustainable Economy - for the young, year-round

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### 4. EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Meeting Our Citizens' Needs Facilitators: Frank Ferro and Judy Crawford

All citizens have a need for the education of their children and for social services to provide for themselves and their families. Although some needs are met by local, state, and federal programs, caring communities still keep a neighborly eye on fellow citizens. Things like preschool programs, youth services and programs, and programs for the elderly help to strengthen the social foundations of a community.

- \* Are we offering a good education to our children?
- \* Should other educational programs be provided?
- \* Is school planning forward thinking and open to alternative or regional solutions?
- \* Do we need other programs for our children? Day-care? Youth activities? Recreational activities?
- \* Do we have good programs for our elderly?
- \* Does the community, through its schools or other programs, offer counseling on parenting or family relationships?
- \* Does it offer help with issues of domestic violence or substance abuse? What are needed?
- \* What local or regional programs or services are offered? What else is needed?
- \* Are these services adequate? Are they well utilized? Under-utilized?
- \* Does local government address and is it effective in providing for our community's needs in this area?

#### FIVE KEY ISSUES:

Year-round, centralized, socially integrating community center  
Island-wide integrated health care delivery system  
Island-wide seamless public transportation system  
Organized community volunteer program  
Continued focus on excellence in education.

5. TAKING CARE OF OUR CITIZENS: Health and Housing  
Facilitators: Deborah Mayhew and Richard Rooney

All citizens need help when they are sick and looking for housing. Although some needs can be met by local, state and federal programs, caring communities still keep a neighborly eye on fellow citizens. Things like affordable housing, preventive health care and substance abuse programs help to strengthen the social foundations of a community.

- \* Are social services adequate for the needs of the community?
- \* Is our approach to health care adequate and appropriate?
- \* Are the services our hospital offers adequate and appropriate?
- \* Are there other services needed?
- \* Is all our community served well by what we offer?
- \* How does the community handle disposal of its wastes, and are they adequate? Trash? Sewage? Are there future plans for disposal of waste as the town grows?
- \* Does the community address town water run-off and toxic water pollutants?
- \* Does local government address and is it effective in providing for our community's needs in this area?

FIVE KEY ISSUES:

Affordable and available quality year-round housing,  
rental and purchase

Preservation of year-round hospital and comprehensive health  
care network

- medical                      - alternative medical
- dental                       - mental health

Preservation and development of public spaces and facilities  
for community recreation for all generations

- bike paths                  - community pool
  - teen & preteen              - walking paths
- recreation

Comprehensive support services to allow seniors to stay in town

Preserve a healthy environment

- minimize pollution        -organic gardening
- public transportation    -aquifer under dump

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6. PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES: The Basics That Serve  
Our Needs

Facilitators: Lisbeth Jones and William Stewart

Public buildings, roads and transportation, school buildings, waste disposal, are basic to the existence of a community. They absorb tax dollars and sharply influence the community's quality of life.

- \* Are public buildings such as schools and town hall adequate for our needs? Are they accessible to people with disabilities? Are they energy efficient?
- \* Does the town have a plan for financing the maintenance, expansion and replacement of its public facilities?
- \* Is it open to regional solutions for future infrastructural needs?
- \* Does the town have a good plan for the use of its old town buildings?
- \* Is the town center being well utilized?
- \* Are transportation concerns being addressed adequately?
- \* Are appropriate plans being made for transportation to and around the island?
- \* Do they seem appropriate to our needs and in keeping with our vision of the future? (Do the solutions in place for our airport expansion seem appropriate to our needs? Do the solutions for the ferry seem appropriate to our needs?)
- \* Are appropriate physical connections being made, such as public transportation between arrival on the island and housing, between housing and job (or shopping sites), between housing and recreational areas? Are they needed?
- \* What public facilities exist in the community?
- \* What facilities or services are needed?
- \* Is our water source protected?
- \* Do we provide for our neediest citizens?
- \* Do we provide for our young and our elderly?
- \* Is lack of housing a problem in this town?
- \* Is there adequate housing for our children if they want to stay here?
- \* Are there alternative ways to provide for this within our zoning bylaws?
- \* Is there housing for our elderly or disabled individuals? For people of lower income? Is there housing for our workers?
- \* Do we have zoning in place that encourages the building of affordable housing? Or encourages the building of affordable units by our more affluent citizens or by our business community?
- \* Does local government address this and is it effective in providing for our community's needs in this area?

FIVE KEY ISSUES:

Public transportation and alternatives to car travel  
Airport expansion: we must consider size, appearance,  
energy efficiency

Town buildings and roads: need coherent policy for maintenance  
and use, and for siting of future buildings

Aquifer protection

Solid waste disposal and recycling

## ENVIRONMENT

### 7. THE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES: Water, Energy and Materials Facilitators: Peggy Schweir and Sig Van Raan

Natural resources are materials from nature that maintain and enhance our lives. This includes food, fuel and materials used in everyday life. A sustainable community attempts to balance the rate at which renewable resources are consumed with the rate at which they are renewed. Protection of our water supply and careful disposal of waste are part of maintaining that balance. A sustainable community also attempts to rely on local sources of food and materials to lessen the amount of energy used in transporting materials to the community.

- \* How does the community handle disposal of its wastes?
- \* What percent of waste generated is recyclable and recycled?
- \* What opportunities exist for reducing that amount of waste generated to begin with?
- \* Is our water source protected?
- \* Are water supplies sufficient and are they used efficiently?
- \* Does the community address storm water run-off and toxic water pollutants?
- \* Are our ponds and other fragile areas sufficiently protected?
- \* Are we successfully protecting managing our industries that rely on these resources?
- \* Do we use energy efficiently in this town?
- \* What percent of the energy used by the community is renewable versus nonrenewable?
- \* What opportunities exist for local sources of renewable energy?
- \* What problems are associated with existing patterns of energy use?
- \* Do energy conservation programs exist within the community?
- \* Are our practices geared toward developing a sustainable community?
- \* To what extent does the local community rely on local sources of food, fuel, and materials? Are there ways in which this should be developed?
- \* Do we have methods in place to encourage the reduction of waste and emissions produced?
- \* Do we encourage increased energy efficiency?
- \* Have we created systems to minimize dependence on non-renewable resources?

#### FIVE KEY ISSUES:

Water quality, aquifer, pollution of Great Pond  
Refuse/sewage  
Zoning for land preservation and natural resources  
Education for sustainable environment  
Impact of environment on physical and mental health

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### 8. HOW THE COMMUNITY LOOKS AND FEELS: Town, Farms, Open Space and Beaches

Facilitators: Joan Merry and Matthew Stackpole

The natural assets of a community consist of the places of natural beauty that contribute significantly to the quality of life of the residents. Beaches, ponds and wetlands, brooks, walking trails, farms, clean air, and open land help determine a community's personality. They contribute to the everyday pleasures of community life. A sustainable community practices effective management of natural assets so as not to undermine their existence or ability to function over time.

- \* What are your town's special water and land assets?
- \* Is there a broad community interest and participation in maintaining these?
- \* How healthy are the natural systems within the community?
- \* What stresses are the local economy, population and growth putting on these natural systems?
- \* Are there ways to guide population and economic development to allow healthy functioning of natural systems?
- \* Are current systems, such as waste management, handled in a way that preserves the integrity of natural systems in the community without damaging the integrity of natural systems elsewhere?
- \* Are the existing businesses environmentally sound?
- \* Are the drinking water supplies protected?
- \* Are there effective methods in place to preserve these lands?

#### FIVE KEY ISSUES.

Investigate creative zoning  
Protection of water and other natural resources, before and after use, and develop a sensible waste solution.  
Develop a good transportation service, including bike and other ways of transport.  
Protect open spaces and reward those who do; i.e. tax breaks  
Town investigate access and protection of beaches by town acquisition - such as Lamberts Cove.

## ECONOMY

### 9. ECONOMIC VITALITY: Stability Through Diversity

Facilitators: Liza Smith and Bob Day

The need to maintain flourishing workplaces is of great importance to communities. A sustainable community includes a variety of businesses, industries and institutions which are environmentally sound, financially viable, provide reasonable wages and benefits to workers, and provides those workers with opportunities to develop their skills to prepare for the community's future needs. Local control of businesses is also important to the economic health of a community. The more often money circulates within the community before leaving, the more the community benefits.

- \* What types of businesses, industries and institutions make up the economic base of the community?
- \* Are the existing businesses environmentally sound?
- \* Are there locally available education opportunities to provide residents with the appropriate skills?
- \* What business services are lacking in the community?
- \* What types of jobs are available to residents? Are the wages adequate for the cost of living here?
- \* What percent of the community's businesses, industries and organizations are locally owned?
- \* To what extent do local businesses purchase products from each other?
- \* What additional business services are needed that could be locally provided and locally owned?
- \* Is there an adequate supply of locally owned, locally controlled credit available for local businesses?
- \* What can be done to improve the economic climate and the tax base of the community?
- \* How much thought has been given to planning for the future?  
Is the current structure sustainable?

#### FIVE KEY ISSUES:

Encourage agricultural activity to strengthen agriculture as an economic base.

Create new businesses using our natural resources well.

Marriage of open space planning and zoning.

Well managed business growth

Economy which can provide year-round support for people of different socio-economic levels.



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## 10. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT: Are We Planning Well?

Facilitators: Ben Moore and Leah Smith

Zoning regulations and bylaws affect how a town develops. They are meant to be a tool, not a set of restrictions. With them, you can guide how and where subdivisions and housing are laid out, how and where commercial districts are developed and expanded, how the town center is utilized. These are all important topics when trying to allow for growth while maintaining the character of the town that the citizens want.

- \* How do our town's bylaws successfully guide how our housing is laid out?
- \* Is the density and placement of housing in keeping with the character we want to preserve?
- \* Are there parts of the town that should be encouraged to be duplicated?
- \* Does it encourage open space in ways that we want? In ways that are beneficial to preserving the character of the town?
- \* Do our methods of housing development and subdivision of land encourage patterns of transportation that seem in character with what we want for our town?
- \* Is our approach to housing and subdivision of land sustainable?
- \* Is our new business district successful?
- \* Does it provide for a sense of community? Is that needed?
- \* Does it provide for our community in the ways that we want?
- \* Does it encourage patterns of transportation that seem in character with what we want for our town?
- \* Are our business districts appropriately placed?
- \* Should they be expanded or decreased in size?
- \* How are we doing in preserving rural character, if that is desired?
- \* Do we have adequate programs and bylaws to encourage active farming and protect existing farmland?
- \* Are we adequately preserving open space?
- \* Should we be more aggressive in our preservation efforts?
- \* Is access to our beaches and ponds adequate? for recreation? for commerce?
- \* Have we preserved adequate access to our ancient ways and paths? Should we do more?
- \* Do we have adequate bike paths and other forms of recreation?
- \* Do we want the old center of town to remain an active and pivotal center of town?
- \* Does our zoning bylaw support that viewpoint?

#### FIVE KEY ISSUES:

Vision of what we want

Plan for growth and open space:

recognize potential of undeveloped land  
combat suburban sameness  
access to natural resources

Rewrite zoning bylaws

redirection effect

put teeth in zoning regs

incentives and taxes

preserve Historic District

village-like clusters and open spaces

Taxes and incentives

Comprehensive transportation

WEST TISBURY COMMUNITY PROFILE  
SATURDAY MORNING

Again, about 250 West Tisbury residents signed in at the elementary school, fueled up with coffee, and began a day of intensive, thoughtful deliberation.

The working session resumed in the gym, with a review of the ten key issues which had been considered by the small groups Friday evening. These summary points were mounted on easels for all to see. Delia Clark then led the large gathering through a process of eliminating duplication and combining ideas where appropriate. As the list was shortened, the following topics emerged as the most important issues for the town to consider.

1. Maintain town character - rural, open space, land use, beach protection, preserving agriculture.
2. Manage economic development, economic opportunities, young people, agriculture, natural-resource-based, beyond tourism.
3. Zoning - village-like clusters, open spaces, Historic District, incentives and taxes, size of business district.
4. Residential growth - control development while providing affordable housing.
5. Communication - access government, educate about traditions and norms, new and seasonal residents, volunteer opportunities, leadership training.
6. Recreation - youth programs, camps - local and seasonal, facilities for all ages, bike paths, pool, walking paths, arts, education.  
Community Center - meeting place, town-wide celebrations, social services, year-round, volunteer program, town culture.
7. Transportation - roads, airport, ferry system, public transportation, gridlock, bike paths.
8. Environmental quality - water, aquifer, solid waste and recycling, septic, open space, education.
9. Regionalism - regional thinking, leadership in regionalism
10. Historic character - town, village center, buildings.

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As a post script, all groups were reminded to include the following in their deliberations.

1. Include all residents.
2. Carrying capacity
3. Leadership
4. Funding.

SELECTION OF KEY ISSUES

Each participant elected which of the ten key issues he or she would like to work on, and again moved to individual classrooms. The groups' tasks were to think about problems that existed in each area, then to brainstorm possible solutions or answers to the issue. Led again by local facilitators, group members thought out loud for half an hour or so about problems and goals, and then suggested solutions - solutions ranging from practical to fanciful and idealistic. The next step was to evaluate each possible solution, project or answer by using the following Impact/Feasibility grid.

Impact: How much will it matter?				
	HIGH			
	MODERATE			
	LOW			
		LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
Feasibility: How possible is it in our community?				

This is how the grid works. First, the design was copied on large easel paper. Then each of the proposed solutions was written on a post-it note. For each note, the group measured the feasibility and impact of the solution. The sticky note was then placed in the appropriate box. Notes that were placed in the upper right-hand corner of the sheet measured highest in impact and high in feasibility/possibility ratings, and were most likely to end up on the short list of issues to recommend to the large group. On the other hand, some groups chose projects which ended up elsewhere on the grid. Small projects that were highly feasible but of high impact, were favored by those who wanted to start small and accomplish something quickly. Long term, difficult projects had advocates who were willing to commit to longer struggles. Many groups proposed a combination of proposals.

## PROPOSALS FOR LARGE GROUP

By the close of the morning small group sessions, participants had again looked at possible projects or activities, associated problems and/or opportunities, narrowed the lists down to perceivable goals, and returned to the large group with short lists of proposals for further consideration.

In a nutshell, these are the Saturday morning proposals:

### TOWN CHARACTER, OPEN SPACE AND AGRICULTURE

1. Investigate tax incentives for open land and for small farms. Open space tax assessment; support for agriculture/ farm business (marketing); alternative financial scenarios.
2. Plan roadside districts. Impact of bike paths.
3. Funds for land acquisition; prioritize critical open space. Transfer of development rights.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Encourage low-impact businesses such as agriculture, art, technology.
2. Local economic trading system.
3. Develop list of economic activities and inventories of assets, venues in town.

### ZONING

1. Buy up open space, i.e. town, Land Bank, etc.
2. Flexible zoning - allow intra-family subdivisions.
3. Patterns - guidelines. Rewrite pattern-based zoning bylaws - density.
4. Census of existing land.
5. Talk to owners of large parcels.

### RESIDENTIAL GROWTH

1. Pursue grant money for study of cost/impact of development vs individual profits (including undermining potential for affordable housing.)
2. Investigate legalities of various revisions of laws.
3. Revise town zoning bylaws.
4. Develop affordable housing plan.

### COMMUNICATION

1. Develop communication system.
2. E-mail access to/from all town officials/employees.
3. Publish town newsletter.

### RECREATION AND COMMUNITY CENTER

1. Structure/ location/ access to natural resources for recreational use.
2. Information about events.
3. Activities/ events.

### TRANSPORTATION

1. Single integrated ground transportation authority/ system.

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### TRANSPORTATION

1. Single integrated ground transportation authority/ system.

2. Transportation master plan; focus on group, interacting with air and water.
3. Traffic calming. - Reduce automobile usage; cluster zoning; layout of roads; limit number of cars; use of bikes and alternate routes and ancient ways; enforce speed limits.

### ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1. Design and implement comprehensive environmental action plan, also ground water protection plan. identify and protect key habitats.
2. Education. Open space and scenic vistas. (Roadside greenbelts).
3. Comprehensive community recycling, composting, local hazardous waste.

### REGIONALISM

1. Identify issues and projects best addressed on an island wide basis.
2. Look at duplication of services and minimize.
3. Re-examine collective representation.

### HISTORIC TOWN CHARACTER

1. Maintain existing civic and community functions in historical village center.
2. Strengthen physical maintenance of town-owned buildings and fully utilize town buildings currently under-used (old library, North Tisbury fire station.)
3. Strengthen local Historic District Commission.

\* \* \*

Lunch Break

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON

All participants returned to the school gym to hear a representative from each of the morning groups present several proposed solutions to their key issues. Facilitator Delia Clark then reviewed the projects selected by each group for presentation to the large group. Delia led a short discussion about whether some projects overlapped, and if we should combine others which were closely related. The resulting final list was cut to 22 menu items.

Each participant in the gym was given a strip of five penny-sized adhesive dots to "spend" voting for favored projects. Voters could place one, two, or even all five dots on any of the issues. The topics with the highest number of dots were selected for further study and development.

Here's how the voting went:

Number  
of  
Dots

Topic

AGRICULTURAL, OPEN LAND, BEACH ACCESS, ROADSIDE PRESERVATION  
82      1. Plan roadside districts; impact of bike paths,  
         scenic vistas.

### MANAGING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

38      1. Encourage low-impact businesses such as art,  
         agricultural and technology based. Have a local  
         economic trading system.

0        2. Develop list of economic activities, inventory  
         lists, venues, and communicate this.

20      3. Create jobs for next generation / mentoring.

### ZONING

96      1. Re-examine zoning to preserve small town rural  
         qualities, identify flexible patterns that  
         encourage neighborhoods, open space and  
         respectful design standards, as a basis for  
         revising zoning bylaws and eliminate loopholes.

98      2. Investigate limits to growth. Tax incentives to  
         preserve open land, subdivision of family land,  
         commit town resources to buy land including  
         agricultural land, caps on growth rate.

55      3. Emergency planning for business district and  
         airport. Master plan, guidelines, vision for future  
         growth, airport terminal.

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Number  
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Dots      Topic

### RESIDENTIAL HOUSING

17      1. Pursue a grant for a study of the financial and social costs of development vs private profit, including its impact on affordable housing.

15      2. Offer a non-binding referendum regarding a short term moratorium on building, in order to accomplish #1.

### COMMUNICATION

45      1. Develop a communication system and other methods of exchanging information to year-round and seasonal residents.

4      2. Access the expertise of citizens through an index of human resources.

### RECREATION AND COMMUNITY CENTER

13      1. Structures/locations/access to natural resources. General access to natural resources, bike paths, opening ancient ways, place for teens, after-school program (location). Find/arrange to use existing structures for a community center. Assess available structures/locations.

4      2. Information about events - communication. Central information phone number. Pot lucks/picnics to promote communication/ bulletin boards/ communicate available spaces and resources effectively. Newsletter event calendar/ input from whole community about what we want.

69      3. Activities and events. Apprenticeship programs, cultural events/ arts theater etc. summer programs. Events/activities aimed at and timed to integrate seasonal and year-round residents. Dances. Pot lucks and picnics. Assessment of current and needed events/activities. After school programs. Political/ civic partnerships, ad hoc citizens committees.

### HOW TO SOLVE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS WHILE PRESERVING OUR RURAL CHARACTER

56      1. Single regional integrated ground transportation system/authority. All bus routes, school buses, elderly lift, taxis and vans.

Number  
of  
Dots

Topic

- 7        2. Transportation master plan - ground, air, water.
- 8        3. Traffic calming. Layout of roads. Limit # of cars (personal sacrifice), use of bikes, alterative routes, i.e. ancient ways. Speed limit enforcement, recreate villages.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

- 100      1. Design and implement a comprehensive environmental action plan. Ground water protection plan. Identify and protect key habitats; education; open space and scenic vistas (roadside greenbelts).
- 10       2. Comprehensive community recycling, composting, local hazardous waste.

#### REGIONALISM

- 56       1. Identify issues and projects best addressed on an island-wide basis.

#### HISTORIC CHARACTER

- 67       1. Maintain existing civic and community functions in historic village center. Strengthen physical maintenance of town-owned buildings and fully utilize town buildings currently under-used (i.e. old library, North Tisbury fire station.)
- 3        2. Strengthen West Tisbury Historic District Commission. Expand district to include roads, nominate district to national level to prevent adverse state activity and get additional funding.



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## ACTION STEPS

### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

As the large group evaluated the results of their voting, participants agreed to continue with six issues which received the majority of the dots. They are:

Environmental Quality - 100 votes  
Limits to Growth ... - 98 votes  
Re-examine Zoning .. - 96 votes  
Roadside Districts - 82 votes  
Activities and Events - 69 votes  
Historic Character .. - 67 votes

Again, participants decided which group to join, according to the topic which most interested them. At this stage, each group, still guided by local facilitators, was asked to consider the following important steps in developing an action plan:

- \* Critical steps to implementation
- \* Resources needed
- \* Principal leadership
- \* Potential obstacles with strategies to overcome them
- \* Time line for implementation
- \* Action step coordinator

Each group also chose a time, date and place for a first/next committee meeting, and elected a convener to coordinate the group's ongoing activities.

And again, all the groups convened in the gymnasium, to report to the large group. A member of each of the six groups presented their final goals, time and place of their ongoing committee meetings. Participants at this point were clearly exhausted from their two-day workout, but almost giddy with exhilaration, with feelings of accomplishment and community, and determination to retain the momentum.

These are the committees:

Environmental Action Plan committee, convened by Bob Woodruff, to begin meeting March 19.

The Committee to Re-examine Zoning, chaired by Murray Frank, meeting Mondays at 5 p.m. at the Howes House, starting March 24.

Incentives to Limit Growth, meeting March 27 at the Ag Hall; Prudy Burt is the contact person.

Historic District/ Community Center committee, meeting April 2 in the Library, led by Susan Arnold.

Roadside Advisory Committee, led by Juleann Van Belle, will request formal appointment by the Selectmen, then set up a meeting schedule.

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Adjourn.

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UPDATE - THIS SPRING

June, 1997

Since the Community Profile weekend almost three months ago, half a dozen new committees have been meeting regularly to work on the main issues which emerged from the weekend event.

In general terms, committee members spent the first month or two familiarizing themselves with existing bylaws, policies, and obstacles, as well as collecting information on innovative solutions and ideas from other places.

All of these committees welcome new members. Anyone interested in joining one of these groups should contact the person designated below.

Here's where they stand:

#### HISTORIC COMMITTEE

The official town structure has two committees - the Historic District Commission, and the Local Historical Commission, both appointed by the Selectmen. The former has the duty of preserving and protecting the architectural integrity of the Historic District, in the old center of town, generally by reviewing and approving plans for renovations to buildings which are officially part of the district. The Historical Commission in recent years has completed an inventory of the town's historic buildings, and published a historical map and guide for the 1992 Centennial.

Following the Community Profile weekend, a number of people have expressed interest in joining these groups and have been appointed to fill committee vacancies. As a result, the town committees are now at full strength and newly energized.

Among the tasks of the new, self-initiated committee are a commitment to preserving the Town Hall and other town buildings, the possible formal inclusion of Special Ways and other ancient ways, including resolution of ongoing problems of public use and privacy. The new committee is also interested in expanding the official Historic District, and as of this date plans to hold public hearings to explain what inclusion entails.

Contact person: Sean Conley, 693-6677 or 693-3953.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The goal of this group is to protect the groundwater/aquifer, and to improve the programs for composting, recycling and the hazardous waste collection process. Group members are working on a model wetlands bylaw, to propose to voters if the state fails to implement such a plan.

This group is also particularly interested in reactivating plans for a bike path from the carwash in Vineyard Haven, separate from State Road but parallel, inland through the woods, to State Road, through West Tisbury, crossing Old County Road to the school and beyond.

The committee will break for the summer but promises to regroup in the fall.

Contact person: Bob Woodruff, 693-8447.

#### LIMITS TO GROWTH COMMITTEE

This group, with a steady turnout of 10 to 12 people, meets every Thursday at 5:30 at the Howes House. Its mission is to find mechanisms and incentives to discourage further subdivision of large parcels of land, through tax incentives, estate tax policy and conservation restrictions.

In Cape Cod towns, people who place permanent conservation restrictions on their land are given local real estate tax breaks of up to 80% - and 90% if they allow public access to their land. Bill Elbow's local "cost of community services" analysis shows that land which remains undeveloped (open space) costs the town just 13 cents in services for every dollar taken in by the town for real estate taxes.

Each piece of land with a house and family on it - by contrast - costs West Tisbury \$1.06 in services for every dollar the town raises in taxes. The message is: Trees don't go to school. As the population grows, so does the need for more services, and so does your tax bill.

One of the best ways to stabilize the tax rate is to discourage development and help owners of large parcels of land to preserve their land with permanent conservation restrictions. Current tax policies, both local and federal, do not always allow credits which in the long run will slow down both the growth rate and the tax rate.

But getting there is not easy, because of long-standing tax policies of the town, the state and federal governments, as well as an (understandable) public perception that this is another tax break for the rich.

This committee has completed an impact/feasibility study and prioritized an action plan, including cost/benefit analysis, "build out" scenarios, and tax assessment policy. Bill Elbow of the town's Conservation Commission is updating the open space plan, to give the town a base for grant funding. Bill is also expanding his "cost of community services" study to factor in costs to the town of part-time, seasonal residents.

As well, a joint project is being planned with the West Tisbury Taxpayers Association, and a representative from that group meets with this committee to look at tax incentives and tax consequences of protecting open space. Jo-Ann Resendes, the Assistant Assessor, has met with the group and provided helpful information about taxation policies.

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As well as gathering all of this information, the group plans to lobby Washington to exempt family farms from having to pay inheritance taxes. The Ag Society and influential seasonal residents are being asked to help with this lobbying effort, a timely topic as it has been included in the present season's budget debates.

Contact person: Tad Crawford, 693-1430.

#### COMMITTEE TO RE-EXAMINE ZONING

This large committee meets Mondays at 5 p.m. at the Howes House. Like most of the other groups, members spent a number of weeks reading available material to learn about zoning in West Tisbury and elsewhere. More recently, the group developed a list and then narrowed it down to several topics worthy of more thorough review.

The committee is currently divided into three subgroups, each researching and discussing topics of importance to the group and to the participants of the Community Profile weekend. They are:

- \* Protection/expansion of open space and farmland and controlling growth.

- \* Home businesses, the Business District, number and types of structures on individual lots.

- \* Creation of neighborhood, flexible (cluster) zoning, and affordable housing.

The subgroups will regroup and propose recommendations for the rewriting of the Master Plan and Zoning Bylaws.

Contact person: Murray Frank, 693-8373.

#### ROADSIDE DISTRICT

This group had startup problems but recently has new energy and a new contact person.

Contact person: Barbara Day, 693-2645.

#### COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMITTEE

The June 22 town picnic is the first community event of this new committee. The group has been meeting regularly to plan the picnic, which will feature music by the Flying Elbows, hay rides by Fred Fisher, folk dancing by the Vineyard Swords, hot dogs and hamburgers by the West Tisbury Fire Department, and an ambrosia-loaded pot luck dessert table by all the picnickers.

Contact person: Marjory Potts, 693-3584.

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Brian Abbott  
Nancy Alyce Abbott  
Dawn Aberg  
John Abrams  
Bill Alden  
Judy Alden  
Anna Alley  
John Alley  
Andrew Aliberti  
Sarah Aliberti  
Glenn Arnold  
Susan Arnold  
Nicholas Azzollini

Abigail Bailey  
Bernard Benjamin  
Margery Benjamin  
Bill Bennett  
Edward Benoit  
Linda Benoit  
Sandy Bernat  
Howard Berwind  
Susanne Berwind  
Stephanie Bird  
Carol Borer  
Steven Borer  
Woody Bowman  
Melissa Breese  
Peter Breese  
Catherine Brennan  
Donna Bubash  
Abbe Burt  
Prudy Burt

Cathy Campbell  
Ken Campbell  
Ned Casey  
Patti Casey  
John Christensen  
Phyllis Cocroft  
Nancy Cole  
Margeret Cook  
Judy Crawford  
Tad Crawford  
Anne Crumm  
Amanda Cohen  
Richard Cohen  
Toni Cohen  
Michael Colaneri  
Geoff Currier  
Joyce Currier

Ron Dagostino  
Sheryl Dagostino  
Barbara Day  
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William Deeble  
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John Early  
Lesley Eaton  
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Jackson Eno  
Lisa Epstein

Frank Ferro  
Ursula Ferro  
Ann Fielder  
William Fielder  
Fran Finnigan  
Bob Fischer  
Maureen Fischer  
Phil Forest  
Wendy Forest  
Aanya Alder Friess  
Jean Francis  
Murray Frank  
George French  
Mary French  
Peter Fyler

Danga Gabis  
Kimberly Galvin  
Carmel Gamble  
Joanna Gilman  
Rick Glassberg

Sally Hamilton  
Andrea Hartman  
Leslie Hartwell  
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Bill Healy  
Glenn Hearn  
Linda Hearn  
T.J. Hegarty  
Diana Helfrich  
Abigail Higgins  
Tony Higgins  
Tom Hodgson  
BeeBee Horowitz  
Abigail Housen  
Tucker Hubbell  
Hermine Hull  
Mark Hutker

Sarah Isenberg

Judy Jahries  
David Jameson  
Rex Jarrell  
Kathy Joba  
Richard Johnson  
Mary Jo Joiner  
Caitlin Jones  
Lisbeth Jones  
Mal Jones  
Virginia Jones  
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Dale Julier

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Rick Karney  
Susan Karlson  
Julie Keefe  
Bruce Keep  
Mary Lu Keep  
Marcy Klapper  
Ron Karbel  
Dick Kocian  
Joan Kocian  
Georgia Kroehnke

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Phil Larson  
Harry Lasker  
Claudia Lee  
Lindsey Lee  
Richard Leonard

Ken Leuchtenmacher  
Eliza Lewis  
Jon Lipsky  
Karin Lipsky  
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Allen Look  
Carly Look  
Samantha Look  
Julie Luntz  
Don Lyons

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Martha Mezger  
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Cynthia Mitchell  
Julia Mitchell  
Lucy Mitchell  
Maria Moody  
Ben Moore  
Paddy Moore  
Jane Murray  
Chris Murphy

Ann Nelson  
Dawne Nelson  
Jeff Nelson  
Mary Beth Norton

Don Ogilvie  
Fan Ogilvie  
Paulette Oboyski  
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James Paquette  
Jan Paul  
Mary Louise Perry  
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Marjory Potts  
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Richard Rooney  
Peter Rosbeck  
Barry Rosenthal  
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Sheila Sawyer  
Heidi Schmidt  
Herman Schneider  
Nina Schneider  
Paula Schultz

Bob Schweir  
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Marshall Segall  
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Donald Sibley  
Linda Sibley  
Susan Silva  
Bart Smith

David H. Smith  
Henry Smith  
Leah Smith  
Lisa Smith  
Nancy Smith  
Woolcott Smith  
Laura Solomon  
Norman Solomon  
Susan Spence  
Martha Stackpole  
Matthew Stackpole  
Karin Stanley  
Ted Stanley  
Bonnie Steere  
David Steere  
William Stewart  
Michael Stone  
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Beth Toomey

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Sig Van Raan  
David Vigneault

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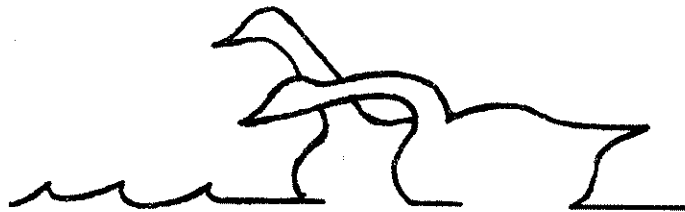
Terre Young

# WEST TISBURY COMMUNITY PROFILE REPORT

Friday, March 14, 1997

Saturday, March 15, 1997

West Tisbury Elementary School



*June 1997*